

**Sticks and Stones**  
**Week 1: The Power of Words**  
**November 13th, 2022**

***OPENING PRAYER***

Have someone in the group invite the Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

***SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES***

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

***"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"***

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

**Share with the group a word that you like or don't like and why. (it doesn't have to be a "bad/naughty" word)**

***INTRODUCTION***

Words matter. Words have the ability to have incredible impact on our lives. Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me is one of the great fallacies of life. This week we begin a new series entitled **Sticks and Stones**. In our first message we are going to focus on **The Power of Words**. Our scripture comes from the very beginning, Genesis 1. Words have tremendous power. In fact, God uses words to create life and bring things into existence. As you engage with your group begin to consider this question: What words have created your world?

***THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1***

***DISCUSSION:***

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

Read Genesis 1:1-4, 26-27 together as a group.

- Discuss the importance of God “speaking” things into existence.
- What does that say to you about words?
- Pastor Heather stated that words have been shaping your world for as long as you can remember. (Examples: I love you, I forgive you, will you marry me, you’re fired, it’s cancer, etc.)
  - Which of these have had a profound impact in shaping your world? Others that are not listed?

When we consider words, there are 3 points to focus on:

1. They are Powerful

Read James 3:3-6, 9-12 together as a group.

- When have you experienced the corrupt power of words?

2. Words Reveal a Person

***Luke 6:45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.***

- If you are willing to share, describe a recent time when your heart was exposed by the words that came out of your mouth.

***1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.***

- If your spiritual maturity was purely measured by your speech, where would you fall on the growth chart?
- Where have you seen the Holy Spirit transform you in this area?

### 3. Words release Potential

Pastor Heather used the example of how God spoke over Abraham.

*Romans 4:17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations."<sup>[a]</sup> He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.*

- Give an example when God has used His word, an individual, a moment, etc. to release potential in you.
- Where is God asking you to speak life into someone else? What are some words He is calling you to speak over someone He has placed in your life?

Words create Worlds.

*Homework:*

This week spend some time reflecting, praying over the words that have created your world. (The good, the bad, the ugly)

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Spend some time in prayer as a group. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.