

THE WEIGHT OF YOUR words

PART 2: LOOK WHO'S TALKING

The relationship you have with others is rarely the same relationship they have with you. Whenever one party depends upon or needs the other, there is unequal power, influence, and authority, even though we all have equal value. This is most clear in a parent/child relationship but is true with your boss, your siblings, and your friends.

The source of words determines their weight. Their weight determines their impact. And their impact ultimately determines the outcome.

CONNECT

Is there someone whose words carry a lot of weight for you? Why do their words carry so much weight?

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Watch the full message sometime this week as a reminder of what was talked about today.

APPLY

After sharing what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Like Sandra, have you experienced a time when someone who you admired said something that has stuck with you? What happened? Or have you experienced a time when you were hurt by someone's words? How has that shaped how you use your words today?
2. If you are a parent, have you considered that when you speak to your children, they see the person whose approval they want more than anyone else's? How does that reality impact the words you use?
3. Read **Matthew 5:13–16**. What does it look like to use our words to be salt and light to the people around us? How can we ensure that the words we use preserve and protect those around us instead of harming or undermining them?
4. Andy encouraged us to “remember who you are and who you represent to the person on the other side of you.” Do you ever stop to think about who you represent when you use your words—especially when you are experiencing a negative emotion (frustration, disappointment, exhaustion)? How does representing Jesus in the way we speak change our posture, tone, and approach with our words?



THE WEIGHT OF YOUR words

5. Toward the end of the video, Andy painted a picture of what it could look like if we take the responsibility to steward our words seriously and mentioned Paul's description of love to the church in Corinth. Read **1 Corinthians 13:1–13**. What would it look like for you to use these descriptions as a filter for how you use your words?

BEFORE NEXT TIME

The second dynamic that is present in every conversation is that the *weight of our words is determined by the source*. Take some time this week to pray for wisdom on how you use your words with the people in your life with whom your words are weighty, whether it is your kids, employees, co-workers, or close friends.

PRAY

Pray together as a group and thank God for enabling us through his power to be salt and light. Ask him to guide your words with the people around you.

