

# EMMAUSWii

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week three • january 19

## INTRO

This winter we will be looking at life's relationships... particularly our relationships with each other right here in the middle school group... we will be talking about what community is and how it is a gift from God and how to unwrap this gift and make it part of our lives.

## GETTING STARTED

This Wii week... We are going to start looking at some community killers.... This week... the tongue...

### •SCRIPTURE

*A gossip goes around revealing secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.*  
-Proverbs 11:13

*A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.*  
-Proverbs 16:28

*As surely as a wind from the north brings rain, so a gossiping tongue causes anger!*  
-Proverbs 25:23

*Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.*  
-Proverbs 26:20

*<sup>21-22</sup>"You're familiar with the command to the ancients, 'Do not murder.' I'm telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother 'idiot!' and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell 'stupid!' at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. The simple moral fact is that words kill.*

*<sup>23-24</sup>"This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.*

-Matthew 5:21-24

*Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, fighting, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.*  
-Romans 1:29

*Don't talk about your neighbors behind their backs-- no slander or gossip, please.*  
-Proverbs 24:28 (The Message)

*Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, Christians have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect.*  
-Ephesians 5:4

*Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.*  
-Ephesians 4: 29

*<sup>3-5</sup>A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it! <sup>5-6</sup>It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell. <sup>7-10</sup>This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!<sup>10-12</sup>My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?*  
-James 3:3-12

*<sup>11</sup>Don't bad-mouth each other, friends. It's God's Word, his Message, his Royal Rule, that takes a beating in that kind of talk. You're supposed to be honoring the Message, not writing graffiti all over it. <sup>12</sup>God is in charge of deciding human destiny. Who do you think you are to meddle in the destiny of others?*  
-James 4:11-12

## •DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God cares so much about what we say and the words that come out of our mouth?
2. What are some ways that our words can do damage? How can wrong words be a community killer?
3. Define gossip. Why do you think gossip is such a “community killer?” What is it about gossip that stirs up divisions and fighting? (see Proverbs verses)
4. If you hear about someone gossiping about you, how do you feel? Why?
5. Why does God take gossip so seriously and put it in a list with sins such as murder and hate? (See Romans 1 verses)
6. Why do you think gossip is such an attractive and easy thing to do? What draws us into wanting to gossip about each other?

7. How do you think we can get rid of gossip and hurting words in our community. How can we stop from saying hurtful things? How can we help other stop saying hurtful things?

8. If , as the Bible says in James 3 we can't "tame the tongue," then what can we do to help us get better and only saying good, helpful and encouraging things?