

# Keys to Communication Practicing the Principles of Proverbs

Pastor Dan Haakenson  
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- I. Introduction
  - A. "Key #2" – Speak with Kindness
  - B. Think before you speak (Prov. 12:18; 29:20; 15:28; also see 13:3; James 1:26)
- II. **Speak with Kindness in WHAT you say**
  - A. Don't speak negatively of others  
(Prov. 16:27-28; 25:23 also see 19:26; 20:20; 30:11)
  - B. Don't gossip  
(Prov. 20:19; 26:20-22; also see 26:17-28; 18:8; 11:13; 17:9)
  - C. Don't praise yourself  
(Prov. 27:2; also see 12:9; 25:6,27)
  - D. Blend kindness and truth  
(Prov. 3:3-4; 31:26 )
  - E. Speak positive/encouraging words  
(Prov. 12:25; 15:30; 16:24; also see 25:25; 15:13, 15)
- III. **Speak with Kindness in WHEN you say it**  
(Prov. 15:23; 25:11; 27:14; also see 25:20)
- IV. **Speak with Kindness in HOW you say it**  
(Prov. 15:2; 16:21; also see 15:4; 22:11; 17:7 26:7, 9)
- V. Summary - Eph 4:29
- VI. Becoming a person who speaks with kindness
  - A. Cultivate kindness in your heart  
(Prov. 4:23; 10:11,20,32; 16:23; also see 2:10; Mt. 15:18; Lk 6:45; Jms 3:8-12)
  - B. Back up your words with action  
(Prov. 3:27, 28)

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why are our words so powerful? (as Proverbs 18:21 suggests, also see James 3:1-12)
2. Why and how are “rash” and “hasty” words dangerous? (see Proverbs 12:18, 29:20)
3. Do you regularly think (ponder/consider) before you speak? (see Proverbs 15:28; James 1:26) Are there certain situations where this is more difficult than others?
4. Where do you most need to think about WHAT you say? (review the Proverbs in the outline)
5. One of the principles we’ve highlighted is “think about WHEN you say it”. How has that principle affected your relationships?
6. What would it look like for you to practice the principle of thinking about HOW you say what you say?
7. Share an example of someone who you have seen that consistently speaks with kindness. What stands out to you about that person?
8. Have you noticed that your words are a reflection of what is in your heart? (Proverbs 4:23) How are you cultivating kindness in your heart? (see Proverbs 16:23)
9. The Proverbs also instruct us to back up our words with action. (see 3:27:28, etc.) How are you doing that or where do you need to more?
10. How will you, as a group, encourage and support one another in putting these principles into practice?
11. Extra: if you want to probe the Proverbs further, take a chapter (chapter 10 would be a good place to start) and note all the lessons on communication.