

#Titus2WifeLife

Week 3: Malicious Gossips

1. Malicious: characterized by malice, intending or intended to do harm
 - a. Synonyms: spiteful, malevolent, evil intentioned, vindictive, vengeful, mean, nasty, hurtful, wounding, cruel, unkind
2. Gossips: casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true.
 - a. Synonyms: rumors, scandal, hearsay, dirt
 - b. What does the Bible say
 - i. Ephesians 4:29: "Let no corrupting talk come from your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."
 - ii. Proverbs 16:28: "A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends."
3. Types of Gossip
 - a. Goingbyfaith.com
 - b. Slander
 - i. Spreading rumors or lies about a person to cause damage purposely
 1. libel if written
 - ii. James 4:11: "Brothers, do not slander one another."
 - iii. Colossians 3:8: "But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips."
 - c. Dishing the dirt
 - i. Sharing "juicy info" that you learned about someone
 1. Intent isn't directly to cause damage, but if it continues to spread can hurt the image or reputation of the person
 - ii. James 5:9: "Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judge. The Judge is standing at the door!"
 - d. Rumors
 - i. Something you heard that is not confirmed as true
 - ii. Proverbs 13:3: "He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin."
 - e. Backbiting
 - i. Speaking spiteful or slanderous words about someone who is not there to defend themselves
 1. Secretive
 - ii. Proverbs 25:23: "The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks."
 - f. Not really joking jokes
 - i. A joke that takes part of the truth and turns it into a joke that makes someone question their character
 1. A passive way to spread gossip

2. Maybe he/she will actually get off the couch today long enough to...
- ii. Mocking
 1. Proverbs 21:24 "Mockers are proud and haughty, they act with boundless arrogance."
 2. Proverbs 9:8 "A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise."
- iii. Planting seeds
 1. Make the listener question or assume something about another person's character
 - a. Isn't it weird that he keeps staring at your girlfriend when you aren't looking?
- iv. Whispered innuendo
 1. Subtle comments that mislead others into thinking wrong thoughts especially if the conclusions are based on gossipy hunches
 2. Proverbs 26:20 "For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down."
 3. Luke 12:3 "what you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs."
 - 4.
- v. Got this all wrong gossip
 1. You admit that you are probably wrong, but you spread it anyways because it is still touching on something that may be true
 - a. I am probably wrong but apparently...
 2. James 4:17 "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

4. Is it gossip?

- a. What is your intent?
 - i. Are you trying to build yourself up by making someone else look bad?
- b. What information are you sharing?
 - i. Are you talking about the faults or failures of other people?