

## Questions for Discussion:

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1. How would you define “gossip?” How about “slander?”
2. Why do you think people love to gossip or slander others? Have you been guilty of gossip or slander? Share what happened.
3. Read James 3:5-6. Can you think of examples where people have been hurt by the hurtful comments of others? What happened? Were things ever resolved? Why do you think James writes that the tongue is set on fire by hell?
4. Read Psalm 15:1-3; Proverbs 16:28; Proverbs 10:18 and Proverbs 17:4. What are some of the negative consequences to spreading slander or gossip?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:1. Why do you think Peter says we need to rid ourselves of slander? What can we do to help us remove these habits from our lives?
6. Tim suggested that we ask ourselves 4 questions before listening to (or spreading) slander:

Is it true?

Is it helpful or necessary for me to know or share this?

Have you (I) talked with the other person about this?

Do you mind if I quote you? (Or would I mind if others quoted me?)

How might asking these questions help us as we sort out whether we should or should not listen to someone who wants to share something with us?

How might these questions help keep us from spreading slander or gossip?

7. How might you apply tonight’s lesson to your life?