



Sermon Discussion Guide

Golden: Do Unto Others

Week 1: Gossip

Matthew 7:12 & Genesis 9:18-27

September 13, 2020

Big Idea

Gossip is offensive to God and destructive to relationships.

Opening Questions

What happened when the congregation was asked to slowly clap during this week's sermon? What does that have to do with our battle with gossip?

General Sermon Question

Read **Matthew 7:12**. The golden rule is simple to understand but difficult to live by. What makes it difficult to follow?

Key Scripture Questions

1. The sermon presented this definition of gossip: "Gossip is talking about someone else's personal situation when you are not a part of the problem or solution." What ill-placed motivations contribute to gossip?
2. Read **Proverbs 16:28**. What impact does gossip have on relationships and trust?
3. Read **Genesis 9:20-25**. Would you consider Ham's response gossip even though he only told two people? Why is gossip still wrong regardless of the number of people we tell?
4. We learned that we carry two buckets; one full of water and one full of gasoline. We make the decision to either fuel the flames of gossip or extinguish them. Without revealing names, share an example of a time you responded to gossip. Which bucket did you use and what happened as a result?
5. Read **Matthew 18:15**. This verse tells us to deal with the sins of others privately. What are the obstacles in doing so?

Concluding Questions

How can you stop yourself from starting gossip? In what ways can you stop gossip when you hear or read it?

Application Questions

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Beyond prayer for each other, is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer Time

"Dear Heavenly Father, the sin of gossip is all around us and easy to fall into. Please help us respond with water to the fire of gossip. May the words we speak of others be pleasing to you. Amen."