

Dealing with the Destructive Power of Gossip

Proverbs 26:20-22

Discussion Questions

The Essentials

- 1) What is gossip?
- 2) Why might we be tempted to do it?
- 3) Have you ever experienced the negative effects of it? What damage can it do to the church?
- 4) What did Jesus say about it?
- 5) How might we practically deal with it? Can you think of any Bible verses that guide us in this?

Going Deeper

- 6) When German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer started his own seminary in the 1930s, he introduced a pretty extreme rule. The young preachers were simply forbidden from talking about each other if the person wasn't present. Bonhoeffer writes the following about his seminary: "talking about others in secret is not allowed even under the pretence of help and goodwill. For it is precisely in this guise that the spirit of hatred between believers always creeps in, seeking to cause trouble." What do you think about this?
- 7) Read Proverbs 17:9. How might we cover over an offense with love?

Memory Verse: "Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down" Proverbs 26:20

Prayer Point: Please pray for the marriage course in September. Pray for the teachers Karl and Ellen Wolf and all of the participants in it.