

An Excellent Word

Read: Proverbs 15:1-7

Main idea: Choosing excellent words Rooted in wisdom can transform our lives and relationships in profound ways, emulating Christ’s heart in our communication.

Key Verses: “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a grievous word stirs up anger.”
(Proverbs 15:1, ESV)

Key Principles:

- A gentle response restores peace and averts conflict, while harsh words inflict pain and escalate anger.
- Wise speech makes moral truth attractive and beneficial, while foolishness spews without restraint.
- God sees every place and person, and distinguishing evil from good to uphold His moral order, so that no act—good or evil—escapes divine justice.
- Healing words act as a tree of life, restoring vitality and morale to the crushed spirit, while perverse or deceitful speech fractures and destroys inner well-being.
- Rejecting parental instruction marks one as a fool headed for ruin, but listening to correction demonstrates wisdom, leading to lasting treasure in the home.
- The wise generously scatter knowledge for others’ benefit, rooted in an upright heart, contrasting fools whose inner foolishness yields no true profit or integrity.

Discussion:

1. How does the principle of a soft answer turning away wrath challenge you to respond differently in heated conversations? Share an example where gentle words restored peace, or harsh ones escalated tension.
2. In what ways does “wise speech commend knowledge?” Discuss how this reflects the heart’s role in communication.
3. How does the awareness of divine scrutiny motivate integrity in your speech and actions? Reflect on the fact that no small act of goodness or evil goes unnoticed.
4. What does the imagery of a healing tongue as a “tree of life” versus a deceitful one crushing the spirit reveal about words’ power? Share a time when soothing words brought restoration, or perverse ones caused harm.
5. How does accepting correction lead to wisdom and lasting wealth, while rejection brings ruin? Discuss practical ways to embrace rebuke as a path to maturity.
6. In light of emulating Christ’s heart, how can we store and dispense wisdom to enrich relationships and avoid the folly of self-centered speech?

Prayer:

- Pray for wisdom to choose gentle, healing words rooted in God’s truth.
- Pray for:
 - Awareness of God’s presence, motivating integrity and wise responses.
 - Hearts that pursue righteousness and spread knowledge generously.
 - Group members to experience the power of excellent words.

An Excellent Word
Proverbs 15:1-7

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| I. | Speak with <u>Wisdom</u>. | 15:1-2 |
| 1. | <u>Offer</u> God's <u>peace</u> gently. | 15:1 |
| 2. | <u>Share</u> God's <u>knowledge</u> wisely. | 15:2 |
| II. | Speak with <u>Integrity</u>. | 15:3-4 |
| 1. | <u>Honor</u> God's <u>presence</u> daily. | 15:3 |
| 2. | <u>Spread</u> God's <u>healing</u> always. | 15:4 |
| III. | Speak with <u>Maturity</u>. | 15:5-7 |
| 1. | <u>Learn</u> from God's <u>correction</u> . | 15:5 |
| 2. | <u>Enrich</u> with God's <u>truth</u> . | 15:6-7 |

NEXT WEEK:
Excellent Relationships
Proverbs 17:17-28