

WORDS – Part 3**Small group questions**

These WORDS are POWERFUL WORDS

1) Never underestimate the power of words

"The tongue has the power of life and death,"
(Prov. 18:21 NIV)

- Give examples of negative and positive words that have been said to you. What effect did these have on you?
- When have you used words in a way that you have regretted or in a way that has been encouraging or affirming?
- Read and discuss James 3:1-12. How can we bring consistency to what comes out of our mouth?

2) Choose your words carefully

"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."
(Matthew 12:36-37 NIV)

- Where and how are you vulnerable to misuse words or use them carelessly?
- How can we choose our words more carefully?
- How can we avoid using words hurtfully?

3) Always speak the truth, but don't always be speaking it.

The bible talks about speaking the truth in love.

It says that:

"a gentle tongue can break a bone."
(Prov. 25:15 NIV)

- Where and how do we draw the line between being truthful and honest with one another and holding our tongue?
- When is it a good idea to keep quiet or withhold comment?

4) Use your words for good and not evil

"Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."
(Prov 12:18 NRSV)

- How can we use our words for good in this coming week?
- How can we encourage others?

- You may want to use the exercise of giving everyone a piece of A4 paper. Have them write their name on the top and then pass the paper to the next person in the circle. Now at the bottom of the paper, everyone writes something positive and encouraging about the person whose name is written at the top of the paper, for example: "You are always smiling and full of joy and are great to be around..." etc. Fold the paper up to cover the comment and then pass on to the next person. This continues until the paper arrives back at the person whose name is written at the top. Everyone in the group can then read the encouraging and positive comments that other people in the group have written about them.