#15 – Does Your Communication Repel or Embrace?

James 4:11-12   
Pastor Shawn Peterson

February 17, 2019

Speak Evil + Judge = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you have a judging spirit?

How can you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ having a judging spirit?

What’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a judging spirit?

**Growth Group Preparation Questions**

For the week of February 17, 2019

Prepare for your Growth Group discussion by taking some time (about 20-30 minutes) to go through the following Growth Group Questions (G2Qs) and be ready to share your thoughts and answers with your group. Have a great time growing in your relationship with the Lord and with others!

**Getting to know You**

1. What is your favorite Girl Scout cookie?
2. Are there any household chores you secretly enjoy? Which ones, and why?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what stuck out to you or was new, challenging, or confusing?
2. Throughout the book of James, he rebukes the Church for favoritism and partiality (2:1,8,9), an untamed, unbridled tongue (1:26, 3:8-10), bitter jealousy and selfish ambition (3:14-16), and quarrels, fights, and selfish passions and desires (4:1-2). In James 4:11-12, he rebukes the Church for having a judging spirit. Describe an example of someone treating you with a judging spirit. How did it make you feel? How was it resolved?
3. Which of the descriptions of a judging spirit did you relate to from the sermon? Describe a specific example. When you do this, what sinfulness does it reveal about you?
4. Why are these things occurring in us, the Church? (Consider the overall context of James - see 1:14-15, 22; 2:26; and especially 4:4.)

1. What are we, the Church, called to do? What is the solution? (See James 4:7-10.)

1. How would your attitude and words change if you combined love with telling the truth in the situations that came to mind in question #3?

1. Now, in light of the big picture view of James, how does telling the truth with love integrate with our church’s vision of ***"Everybody is welcome because nobody’s perfect and God has big plans for your life"?***How does the big picture of James tie into the kind of church we want to be?

SERVING OTHERS AND SHARING YOUR FAITH

* Take a walk in your neighborhood, gym, office, or school. Ask the Lord to give you a burden to pray for your neighbors, co-workers, or fellow students. Write down the names or addresses of 5 people who you will commit to praying for on a consistent basis. Keep track of needs that you can pray for specifically as God reveals them through circumstances and interactions.

* Find 5 people that you connect with at church to enter into an accountability/encouragement prayer relationship with. Check in with them weekly about your experiences to keep the prayer conversation going in your life and at Foothills.

* Share your story. Has God answered a prayer for your neighbor? Has He created a special opportunity to interact with your neighbor as you have been praying? Has God worked in your heart as you have been praying for your neighbor? Have you heard Him ask you to do something? Share your story with your G2 and send an email to [bhodgson@4fbc.org](mailto:bhodgson@4fbc.org).

**Growth Group Prayer Requests:**