

The Time is now
Small Group Discussion Resource
Speaking the words of God

1. Today we are going to be discussing how we speak God's truth into each other's lives. Read the text together and then pray that God would give you insight into his truth.

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ **If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.** If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:7-11

2. Share a time when you felt manipulated by someone using scripture in an inauthentic or inappropriate way.
3. Share a time when someone clearly spoke God's truth to you and you found it to be truly helpful for your walk with Christ.
4. It can get a little awkward when someone uses language like "God told me to tell you this". Remember the story of the guy who told a girl that God told him to marry her? She replied that until God told her, that the answer was no! Why are we to be careful with these kinds of definitive statements that appear to represent God's will on issues?
5. On the other hand, there may be times when we are feeling quite compelled by God to speak his truth to certain people in our lives. If you had to make a list of "five things to consider" before speaking God's truth to someone, what would be on that list?
6. When speaking God's truth into people's lives, we need to make sure it is God's truth that is clearly revealed in the Bible. What are some Biblical passages on the general will of God that are very clear? Is it right for us to be clear where the Bible is not?

7. Read Deuteronomy 18:14-22. In Old Testament times, if a prophet was wrong in their foretelling (prophecy) or forth-telling (preaching) they were to be put to death. Why did God take such a hard line on this?
8. If we are to speak the very words of God, we can expect to hear them too. How can we make sure that the things we're being told by others are in fact the words of God?
9. What does this verse have to say about our speech in general? It seems obvious that we're going to talk about a lot of different things, but what does it mean for what our conversations should be like?
10. This verse (11) immediately follows an instruction to use our gifts. If we understand speaking the words of God as a gift from God, what is our responsibility towards our language with one another within the church, but also to those who are outside of it?
11. Read Matthew 28:16-20. Reflecting on the great variety of words we might speak into someone's life, what are effective ways to use the words of God to participate in the great commission? What are maybe some of the less effective ways as well?
12. Discuss this quote:
"This verse has looked like the priesthood of all believers in action, each exhorting one another to obey and love the word in ten-thousand small ways, from a wife to another wife, a mom to another mom, a man to his sons, friend to friend, father to father, church member to church member."
13. Spend some time praying for one another. Pray specifically for opportunities to speak the words of God, and wisdom about how best to do that.