



## **“Grammar Lesson”**

**Psalm 141, Matthew 5  
Small Group Plan**

Consider the following proverbs:

*“Keep your tongue between your teeth.”*

*“Think twice before you speak once.”*

*“Listen more than you speak.”*

*“Keep you tongue a prisoner  
and your body will go free.”*

*“A long tongue shortens friendships.”*

They all communicate that our words are central, even vital to our relationships. This is why scripture says so much about our language. In fact, it describes a whole variety of words.

For example, there are deceitful words (Psalm 5:9), healing words (Proverbs 12:18), boastful words (Psalm 12:3), gentle words (Proverbs 25:15), lying words (Psalm 109:2), and careful words (Proverbs 25:11), just to name a few.

The point is, we will always have a choice, and we will always need God’s “Grammar Check.”

### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- What do we mean when we say of someone, “He is a man of his word” or “Her word is her bond” ?
- What does childhood oath, “I cross my heart and hope to die” actually mean?

### **LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

#### **— THE POWER OF WORDS —**

**Psalm 141:3**

*Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD;  
keep watch over the door of my lips.*

**Proverbs 18:21**

*The tongue has the power of life and death.*

- Why are words so powerful?
- How are they able to penetrate with either good or evil?
- Where have you seen their power?

— **VERBAL INTEGRITY** —

**Matthew 5:33-36**

<sup>33</sup> “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’ <sup>34</sup> But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.”

- How might this topic of oaths and vows be connected to the previous section on marriage and divorce (v. 27-32)?
- READ Matthew 23:16-22. The Pharisees had developed an elaborate system of oaths. Why is Jesus opposed to oaths?
- Does this mean that we should refuse to give evidence under oath when we appear in a court of law (cf. Matthew 26:63-64)? Explain.

— **“YES” OR “NO”** —

**Matthew 5:37**

Simply let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No”; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

- Why should oaths be unnecessary for followers of Jesus?
- Why is the simplicity of “just say what you mean” so difficult for many?

**USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- How has “honesty” been redefined in our modern world?
- READ and summarize these scriptures:
  - Proverbs 10:19**
  - Proverbs 17:27-28**
  - Psalms 5:9**
  - Matthew 12:36-37**
- What common lesson emerges from this group of scriptures?
- How and where can it be applied to our Christian walk?
- Close by asking God for simple honesty and integrity.