



Life Group Discussion Questions

Ice Breaker

Did you grow up in more critical or encouraging home atmosphere?

Opening Question

What stood out to you from the weekend message? Was there a scripture, principle, or action step that has stuck with you?

Scripture

Read Proverbs 18:21a

This verse tells us that our words have the power to determine the direction and quality of our lives *and* the direction and quality of someone else's life as well. Who are you most critical of? What could your criticism be destroying? How can we use our words to enhance the lives of others?

Read Proverbs 15:31

The key word in this verse is listen; why can it be hard to listen to constructive criticism? When we receive *constructive criticism* at home or in the work place, what is generally true about the speaker? What are some ways we can become better at receiving this type of feedback?

Read Galatians 5:14-16

In this passage Paul makes it clear we are to love others as we love ourselves. In the absence of this, we will destroy and be destroyed by one another. How do we see both of these examples played out in today's social media world? What safe guards can we use to insure we love others as ourselves?

Sometimes we get in our own way of doing what we know we want to do or could do. (See Romans 7:15) Discuss how Pride, Insecurity and Lack of Understanding all can lead us to hurtful criticism.

We have a choice we can choose to criticize and cut others with our words like the Pharisees did. Or we can use our words to bring healing like Jesus did. As followers of Jesus, it isn't really a choice; it is what we are called to do.

Ben gave us three challenges we can implement to help us deal with criticism.

1. **Ask yourself – "Is what I'm about to say going to cut or heal?"**
2. **Fill your heart**
3. **Leave room for God**

"Criticism"

Ben Davis

Proverbs 18:21 "The tongue has the power of life and death."

Proverbs 15:31

Galatians 5:14-15

Why we criticize...

1. P _____
2. I _____
3. D _____ u _____

Proverbs 12:18

Criticism _____ but the _____ of the _____ bring healing

Challenges for You

1. Ask yourself – Is what I'm about to say going to _____ or _____?
2. Fill your _____.
3. Embrace your _____.

Use your remaining time individually or as a group to think through and discuss how you can begin to move away from criticism and towards using your words to heal. What would that look like and how would your lives be different if you took those steps?

Pray