



## Part 2 Discussion Guide

### Face the Issue:

When we think of the word “generous”, most of us usually think about our money or possessions. This week Jeremy reminded us that we should also be generous with our words.

*We have all heard “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me” but is that really accurate? When have you been hurt by words?*

*Jeremy also said that we can be hurt by words that have remained unsaid. Can you think of a time when you have been hurt by someone’s silence? If you are comfortable, share with your group.*

### Into the Word:

Our words, as in all aspects of our life, are to be guided with love.

### Read Colossians 4:6

*What does it mean for speech to be “full of grace, seasoned with salt”?*

### Read Ephesians 4:29.

*What kinds of speech might contain “unwholesome talk”? By contrast, what kinds of speech build others up?*

### Read Philemon 1:4–21.

Paul is writing to Philemon and in this letter he makes a request on behalf of Onesimus. It appears that Onesimus was a runaway slave from the house of Philemon. Philemon would have had a legal right to enslave him again and even punish him. Paul gives a textbook example of being generous to Onesimus in how he uses his words to Philemon.

*How does Paul soften his request to Philemon?*

*What elements of this letter might be useful in other types of confrontations—with spouses, wayward children, uncharitable colleagues, estranged relatives?*

### Read 1 Peter 3:15

*In contemporary American culture, evangelism is often seen as shoving your beliefs down someone’s throat. In your experience, is that perception fair?*

*Is there a difference between witnessing as commonly understood and giving “the reason for the hope you have ... with gentleness and respect”?*

**Apply The Word**

*Could well-chosen words help you build or mend a relationship? What are those words, and how will you share them?*

*How can you prepare to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have?*