

QUESTIONS ABOUT

Gossip

1. What is gossip?

Write your best definition: _____

Combine with two other people and rewrite your definition: _____

2. Drawing from all of the definitions suggested by the group, what are the key elements of gossip?

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

3. Explain how each passage helps define and condemn gossip.

- ✓ Ephesians 4:29 _____
- ✓ Matthew 7:12 _____
- ✓ Matthew 18:15 _____
- ✓ Proverbs 18:8 _____
- ✓ Romans 12:17-18 _____
- ✓ I Thessalonians 5:12-13 _____
- ✓ I John 3:23 _____

4. What questions do you still have about gossip?

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

TEACHER'S GUIDE

- Question #1 Begin by having your students individually define gossip. Then divide them into teams of three and have those three individuals combine their ideas into one definition which they share with the entire group.
- Question #2 Draw from the definitions shared to come up with some of the basic elements involved in gossip. Try to limit this to three or four main things.
- Question #3 Read through these passages together and discuss how each one defines/condemns elements of gossip.

Ephesians 4:29

General instruction about speech; what I say should edify others; it should be fitting for the moment and benefit the hearer

Matthew 7:12

My speech should be governed by the golden rule. I should never share with others what I would not want shared about myself.

Matthew 18:15

I should not share the sins of another person. I should go to them privately.

Proverbs 18:8

Am I just looking to share a good story on someone? Is my goal to run them down or discredit them in some way? Am I trying to pump myself up by tearing another down?

Romans 12:17-18

Am I sharing this information to get even or settle a score?

I Thessalonians 5:12-13

Does sharing this information show a lack of regard for a kingdom leader or worker (elder, preacher, Bible class teacher, etc.)?

I John 3:23

Can I honestly say that sharing this information is an act of love? (Note also verse 13-18)