

## MY BIG FAT MOUTH – Part 3

### GOSSIP

March 17, 2019

**OUR MISSION**...to see lives changed through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

“People can tame every kind of wild animal, bird, reptile, and fish, and they have tamed them, but no one can tame the tongue. It is wild and evil and full of deadly poison. We use our tongues to praise our Lord and Father, but then we curse people...” James 3:7-9 (NCV)

### TYPES OF GOSSIPERS

- Prayer request gossip.
- Just thought you ought to know gossip.
- Don't know when to shut up gossip.
- I told the truth gossip.

### REMEMBER THIS!

- If you listen to gossip, you become part of the problem.
- If someone will gossip to you, they will gossip about you.

## WHAT DO I DO ABOUT GOSSIP?

1. Recognize the destruction gossip leaves.

"A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. James 3:5-6 (NLT)

2. Clean up the destruction by asking forgiveness.

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-25

3. Refuse to share or listen to gossip.

"If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless." James 1:26 (NLT)

"Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." Ephesians 4:29 (NLT)

### Talk it Over

1. What is gossip?
2. Why is gossip so destructive?
3. Read James 1:26. What happens if we don't control our tongue?
4. Share an experience when you didn't control your tongue. What was the outcome?
5. Heart Check: Read Matthew 5:23-25. Who have I left in a path of destruction? Am I willing to ask forgiveness and make it right?