

# Bible Study

## The Power to Bless, or to Curse.

*"Sticks and Stones may break my bones, but Words can never hurt me."*

1. The subtitle to this study is an old childhood rhyme that we've all chanted and even taught our children. Is it a true or false statement? Why?
2. Consider the way in which you talk to people. Is your speech positive or negative? Is it life giving or life sapping? Read Proverbs 18:20-21. What is the principle found in these scriptures?
3. What does Romans 12:14, 19-21, tell us as Christians to do for those who wrong us or mean us harm?
4. Does following this principle in our lives mean we won't see harm or difficulty? See Genesis 40:15, Matthew 27:11-14.
5. See Genesis 50:20-21. What was Joseph's response to the harm he had received? What attitude do we find in his life story?
6. As fallen people we learn from scripture that our words have a lot of power. See James 3:5-8. What is that power?

7. What two things does Jesus say about the words we speak? See Matthew 12:34-37.
  
8. What about the Word of God? Does it have power in our lives? See Hebrews 4:12. See Numbers 6:23-27 for an example of this in action.
  
9. Do you think it is necessary for a person to be worthy of a blessing before one is given to them?
  
10. Does someone giving a blessing have to be godly? 1 Samuel 1:17, 26:25. Consider also Balaam in Numbers 22. What does this tell you about the power of blessings?

*A blessing describes what God wants to accomplish in a person's life, rather than what they have already achieved.* - Bill Gothard, The Power of Spoken Blessings.

11. What is a curse? See Exodus 21:17, Matthew 21:19.
  
12. Consider how you talk to those in your family or to your friends. Have you pronounced curses to them? Consider again question 3 along with Job 31:30; Matt 5:44; 1 Thes 5:15; Jam 3:10; 1 Peter 3:9.

13. How should you respond to those who curse you?