



# ...ONE ANOTHER

*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another - John 13:35*

Service Discussion Guide

April 25, 2021  
Pastor David Uth



## 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ephesians 4:29

*"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."*

*<sup>29</sup>Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

### Background

We have all experienced the powerful influence the words of others have had on our lives – both positively and negatively. We vividly remember the pain that comes with a stinging one-liner said in frustration from a friend or loved one. We remember what a specific teacher, coach, or parent said to show us how much they believed in and cared for us. One of the repeated cautions throughout the New Testament concerns our speech – both in what we say and how we say it. In a society today with nearly unlimited access to information and communication platforms, believers have even more reason to be cautious with what they say (and type). Today, as we continue our series “One Another,” Pastor David will explain the powerful effect of our words on others and the important task followers of Jesus have to “build up” and not tear down those around us with what we say. May we all heed Paul’s encouragement so that our words will be acts of “grace” meant to help and encourage others see Jesus more clearly in our lives.

### Service Notes

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*What is your biggest takeaway from today's message?*

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Instructions

*This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.*

### Getting Started

- ▼ What stood out to you in this week’s sermon? What is one thought from the message that made you hopeful? What prompted questions?

### Talk it Over

- ▼ Who has been the greatest example of encouraging “speech” in your life? How so? What is something they may have said that still resonates deeply to you today
- ▼ **Read Ephesians 4:25-32.** Why is being truthful in what we say (post online) important for our Christian witness (vs. 25)? Why do you think Paul followed the instruction on speech/truth with wisdom on how to deal with anger (vs. 26)? In what ways is avoiding “unwholesome” talk more than simply avoiding specific words? Can you give an example? How can we be “kind and tender-hearted” toward others with our words specifically (vs. 32)? What are some practical steps each of us can take to avoid using unhelpful or harmful and “unwholesome” speech?
- ▼ **Read James 3:1-12.** Why do you believe James spends so much time discussing the importance of our speech? Which is the most helpful illustration/metaphor in this passage for you? Why? How would you summarize the warning in this passage?
- ▼ **Read Matthew 12:33-36.** What does Jesus’ illustration with trees/fruit teach us about our own heart and speech? What are ways we can make sure “good fruit” overflows from our heart? In what ways does Jesus’ declaration about careless words challenge you or make you think more carefully about your words (vs. 36)?

### Live it Out

- ▼ Who is one person that you would like to “give grace” to with your words this week? Take a moment and text that person an encouraging message.



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