

WHAT'S IT GOOD FOR?

SCRIPTURE:

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) hammer
- (1) bent and straight nail
- (1) wood

MAIN MESSAGE:

Gossiping is easy to get caught up in, and causes so much heart ache! When we gossip, we aren't building up or loving each other. Instead we are doing exactly opposite, tearing each other down. When we must learn to control our tongues.

SONG: "Angry Words"

LESSON:

Out in my garage, I have a container that has many types of nails and screws in it. It is mostly a catch-all container for nails or screws I have found on the ground or just couldn't bring myself to throw away. I end up using these for projects which need to be effective but not particularly pleasing to the eye.

Every now and then I reach into the container and pull out a bent nail. It could have come from one of my hammering errors, or maybe from taking some scrap wood apart and pulling the nails out. It really doesn't matter where they come from, I guess, but they are still there in my container. Every now and then I will try to use one of these bent nails to try to preserve some of my better ones. The bent nail will end up messing up the wood I'm using, or it will cause me to smash my fingernail. It very rarely turns out well, and I end up having to trash the nail. It has become weak, ineffective, and is good for nothing.

Gossiping is very similar to a bent nail. It is the talk of a weak person, and it never produces good results. Gossip is defined as idle talk or rumors, especially about others' personal or private affairs. It can be done with or without malicious intent, but neither way is acceptable in the eyes of God. James 3:6 says that our tongue is like a fire. It can cause so much harm and do so much damage, and if it isn't controlled, it will ruin relationships in the church, shine a negative light on ourselves and the church, and it may ultimately cost us our souls. We need to remember that we are supposed to build up others and love them instead of gossiping and breaking them down.

PRAYER: Let each of us learn to control our tongues so that we may be useful in building up the Church.