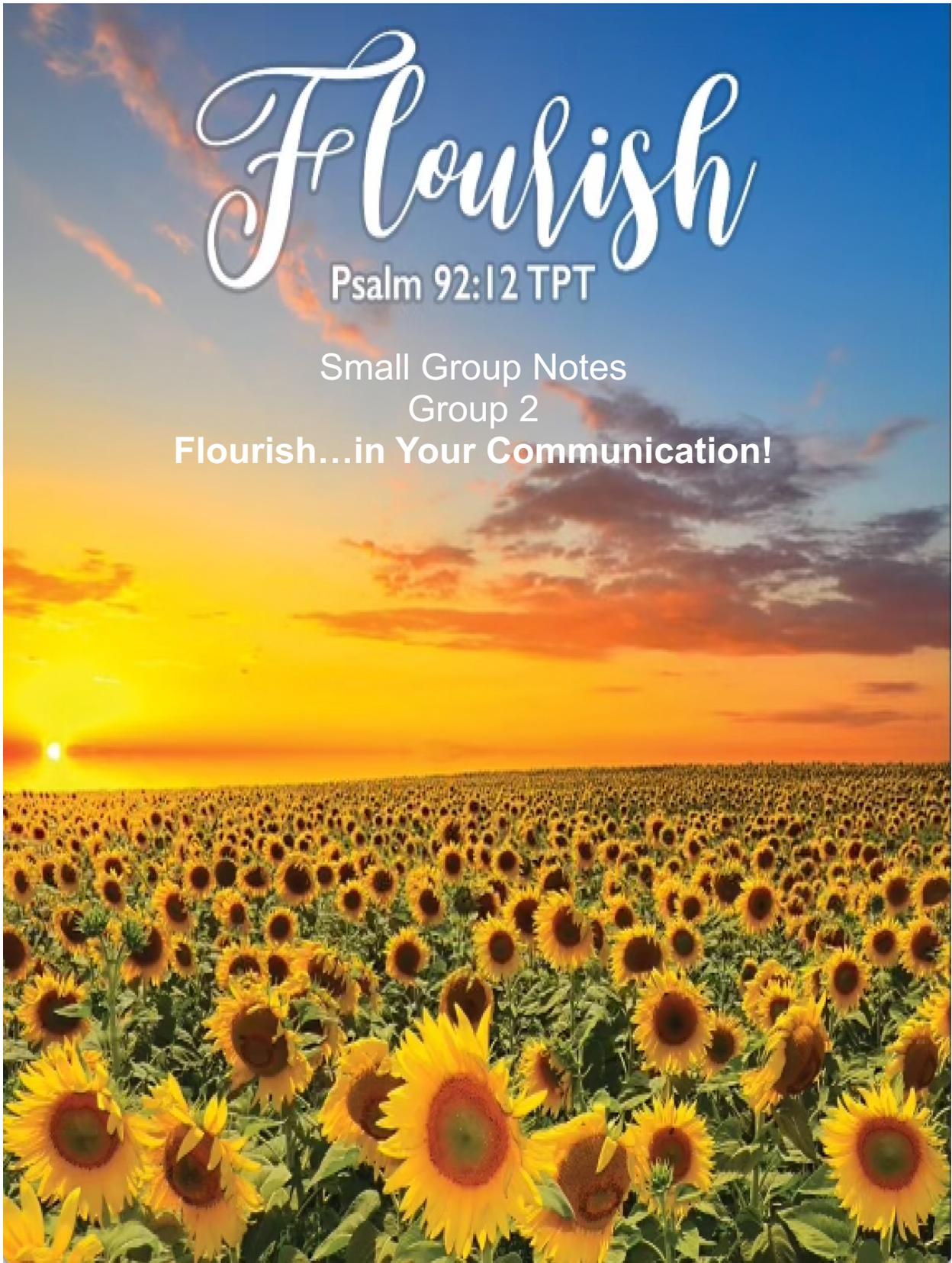


Flourish

Psalm 92:12 TPT

Small Group Notes
Group 2

Flourish...in Your Communication!



~ **Session 3 – Small Group #2** ~
FLOURISH...in Your Communication!
Communication...hence, “The Tongue”! (Timber!)

The first thing a doctor will say when you go for a check up is “stick out your tongue!” He uses your tongue to check your health. God does that spiritually too!

Just look at what God says the tongue is capable of doing in the **Book of James!**

The tongue can **DIRECT-James 3:4** - ‘Direct’ wherever the pilot desires.

The tongue can **DESTROY-James 3:6** - ‘Destroy’-defiles the whole body.

The tongue can **BLESS-James 3:10** - ‘Delight’-brings blessing.

Proverbs 31:26 - She opens her mouth with wisdom and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

Proverbs 12:18 - "The tongue of the wise promotes health". The key word in that verse isn't tongue, but 'wise'. The 'tongue' is not in control, but the PERSON behind it is!

*Wisdom is knowing when to speak your mind and when to mind your speech.

*It's your tongue. It's in a wet place and can easily slip!

Words are seeds...they take root... **Proverbs 18:21** - ***Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it...***

Proverbs 16:23-24 - ***The heart of the wise teaches his mouth and adds learning to his lips.***

James 1:19 - ***So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.***

Solution:

Isaiah 50:4-***The Lord has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning; He awakens My ear to hear as the learned.***

*** The Laws of Your Mouth! (Whaaa?)**
Ten Laws That Govern Your Communication
From Pastor Larry Stockstill

1. The law of the tongue (James 3:6-12)

- a) The tongue is a “rudder,” A “fire,” a “poison,” and a “fountain:.. It has the power to control the entire person and all your relationships. If you control the tongue, you can change your family.
- b) Fire spreads. The tongue is like the center of a wheel burning with a fire that spreads to the edges of the wheel. Gossip, criticism, backbiting, and angry words spread fire to your entire life.
- c) Poison is deadly. It spreads through a water, food, or air supply and can destroy millions. The ten spies poisoned the entire multitude of Israel with their bad report.

2. The law of affirmation (Proverbs 18:20-22)

- a) You will eat the fruit your tongue creates-Solomon mentions your tongue and then your wife. Our partner will become exactly what you say about him or her.

- b) Words of affirmation is one of the primary love languages that tell people they are loved.

3. The law of silence (James 1:19)

- a) Zip your lip! You have two ears and one mouth. God made your ears open and your tongue enclosed. Listening is the most important part of communication.
- b) It is also imperative to sit silently while others are communicating (even if they are wrong!). Jesus responded with silence and then few words to the false accusations of the Sanhedrin and Pilate. "Where there are many words, transgression is unavoidable." (Pv. 10:19)

4. The law of the heart (Matt. 12:34)

- a) If it's in the well, it will come up in the bucket! The mouth can only speak out of what fills the heart. Words are not mindless, but automatically come from the overflow of the attitudes in the heart.
- b) The heart is a "fountain." It produces either bitter water or sweet. God must heal your heart in order for your communication to change.

5. The law of foolishness (Matt. 12:36)

- a) Sticks and stones only damage bones, but words can hurt forever. Never think a word is "nothing". Jesus spoke about idle "nothing" words that will judge us. These are words spoken carelessly, inconsiderately, and not seriously.
- b) Foolish talk, coarse jesting, and cutting remarks are hurtful. It is like waving a loaded gun inside a house. We must be careful of foolish words (Eph. 5:4).

6. The law of covenant (Ps. 89:34)

- a) Keep your promises. Words establish covenant. Words establish confidence and trust. Your words help others predict your actions and responsibilities. Carefully measure your words because they create hope.
- b) The greatest covenant is the marriage vow. You have committed to death, and nothing should cancel that sacred vow.

7. The law of truth (Eph. 4:25)

- a) Tell the truth. A lie is the intent to deceive. Never shade the truth, withhold the truth, or deny the truth. Accurately recall the facts.
- b) A family should have an environment of acceptance. Be open and honest about your mistakes, failures, and flaws. Admitting what you have done wrong builds confidence.

8. The law of the trumpet (1 Cor. 14:8)

- a) Make it plain. Direct, not indirect, communication makes for good relationships. Innuendos, casual references, and indirect decisions make people insecure.
- b) "Sound the trumpet" seven times to make something clear (Josh. 6:4). Use different methods, even to the point of being redundant.

9. The law of salt (Col. 4:6)

- a) Speak with grace. Salt gives a pleasant taste to food. Our speech is to be “seasoned” well: pleasant, and appealing, instead of rough, crude, abrasive, critical, and harsh.
- b) “A Soft answer turns away wrath” (Pv. 15:1) because it sprinkles salty, pleasant words on something volatile.

10. The law of apology. (Hos. 14:2)

- a) Words can restore relationships. Hosea told God’s people to bring” words” to return to the Lord.. Words can bring healing.
- b) A true apology is not based on consequences suffered (remorse), but for the damage caused to the relationship (repentance). A sincere apology is not retracted just because the other party does not accept it. A sincere apology happens when you are truly saddened over the loss you have created.

Pv. 10:19 - “He who restrains his lips is wise” But James said in James 3:8, “No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison”. He said that with the tongue we bless our God who created us, but then we also curse those whom He has created (v.9). Lest we think that Christians do the blessing and non-Christians do the cursing, we need to remember that James was writing to Christians.

Solution?

We need God’s help! Romans 6:13-Present the parts of our body “as instruments of righteousness to God”...