

**FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY
RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

REFERENCE: FROM THE BOOK OF RICK WARREN

TITLE: 40 DAYS OF LOVE

SESSION THREE: LOVE SPEAKS THE TRUTH

Key Verse: Love...rejoices with the truth 1 Corinthians 13:6 (NIV)

Most people misunderstand the phrase “keeping the peace,” and think it means avoiding confrontation at all costs. But repressing the truth rather than dealing with the truth causes trouble.

Someone who holds back the truth causes troubles, but the one who openly (confront) works for peace.

Proverbs 10:10 (TEV)

Speak...the truth in a spirit of love.

Ephesians 4:15 (TEV)

HOW TO SPEAK THE TRUTH OF LOVE

1. Check your _____.

What is the right motive? _____.

We tell you this as Christ’s servants...everything we do, dear friends, is for your benefit.

2 Corinthians 12:19(NLT)

To go from shallow to intimate relationships, you need to go through the “tunnel of truth” where you deal with issues you really don’t want to deal with.

2. Plan your _____.

Intelligent people think before they speak, what they say is then more persuasive.

Proverbs 16:23 (NLT)

For what I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.

2 Corinthians 2:4 (NIV)

SESSION THREE: LOVE SPEAKS THE TRUTH (con't)

KEYS TO PRESENTING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

1. Plan _____ you're going to say it.

Don't say it when the people is:

- * tired
- * under pressure
- * in a hurry

Do say it when...

- * it is the best timing for the person
- * the person is rested and ready to hear it
- * you both are at your best
- * you have privacy

2. Plan _____ you're going to say.

The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver.
Proverbs 25:11 (CEV)

a. Introduction: How you introduce a touchy subject will determine whether it's going to be received well or rejected.

Don't start with sarcasm or anger.

Do start with humility and gentleness.

b. Illustrations: Help the person picture what you want to say.

Don't just choose illustrations you like.

Do choose illustrations the person understands.

3. Plan _____ you're going to say it.

Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal.

Proverbs 12:18 (TEV)

A soft answer turns away wrath.

Proverbs 15:1 (NKJV)

Don't...

- * say it thoughtlessly, or it will hurt the person.
- * say it offensively, or it will be received defensively.

Do...

- * lower your voice
- * say it in a gentle and humble way

3. Give them _____.

A word of encouragement does wonders. Proverbs 12:25 (TLB)

SESSION THREE: LOVE SPEAKS THE TRUTH (con't)

Affirm that:

- You deeply love and care for the person.
- You will pray for them and help them.
- You believe they can change.
- The relationship can be better and that you can be even closer as a result of this confrontation.

4. Risk their _____.

The apostle Paul risked rejection and it turned out well:

8" I know I distressed you greatly with my letter. Although I felt awful at the time, I don't feel at all bad now that I see how it turned out. The letter upset you, but only for a while...9 you were jarred into turning things around. You let the distress bring you to God...12 And that is what I was hoping for in the first place when I wrote the letter."

2 Corinthians 7:8-9, 12 (MSG)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. We wouldn't let a friend step into oncoming traffic. Why then do we hesitate to stop a friend who is stepping into trouble or making a harmful choice?

2. The right reason for confronting a person in love is to help, not to hurt. If you sense your motive to speak the truth in love is not pure, what needs to change in you? What should you do?

3. Describe a time when someone was honest and loving enough to tell you what you needed to hear, rather than just what you wanted to hear. How did it help you?

4. Are you willing to hear the truth in love? What can you do to prepare your heart to hear it?
