

## **The One about Gossip**

**Text:** Ephesians 4:21-32

**Purpose:** In Christ, we are called to be truthful people. Truthfulness entails responsibility for accurate content, relational impact and how we spend our time. One way we live un-truthfully is when we gossip. In scripture, gossip is talked about in terms of “scandalous whispering,” “babbling” and even “rumor-mongering”! But gossip is usually a symptom of another problem - whether discontent, grief or insecurity. Rather than cycle through unhealthy patterns of relating, we can put on Christ’s righteousness and holiness and learn His ways of being truthful.

**Opening Interaction:** Ask your group, what’s the most outrageously false news headline you remember seeing? What did it claim? How long before it was exposed to be untrue?

### **Read and Discuss:**

- In this passage, what details seem important? Does anything jump out at you?
  - What is the author communicating to the audience?
  - What does this passage teach us about God?
1. Do you agree that gossip is usually a symptom of another problem? When does gossip become a problem in its own right?
  2. Quickly read 2 Corinthians 12. Would you agree that the Apostle Paul was gossiped about? What negative effect would that have on the Corinthian church? On Paul?
  3. Read 1 Timothy 5:13. What relationship does gossip have with being “idle” or a “busybody”?
  4. Read 1 John 1:7-10. How do Christians manage change?

### **Calvary Season of Prayer: Anticipation**

Kids are returning to school this week. Take time to pray for families with kids in your group, and be sure to ask specifically what each family is anticipating this school year.

Continue to pray for our church, anticipating that God will guide us through our first steps after receiving recommendations for moving forward together as a church:

- That our community of Christ followers will commit to new habits of peace-making and conflict resolution.
- That a temporary interim to work alongside our Pastors will be identified, and that this person will be uniquely gifted to help Calvary Church move forward.
- That our Elder Board will be led by the Spirit as they work to clarify their role and responsibilities.