

2 May 2010 - Preached by Elder Sim Siang Kok  
Message Topic: **Is it True that Words never Hurt?**  
Scripture Text: James 4:11-12

1. Typically, we speak 6000 words each day and the Bible tells us in Prov 18:21 that words have the power of death and life. Hence, we must guard our words carefully.
2. In James 4:11, the Bible commands us not to speak evil one of another. This means we are not to backbite behind their back and not to defame others. The bible also warns us against the sin of gossiping and slandering others. In doing so, we damage another person's reputation and injure their good name.
3. The way to stop backbiting, gossip and slander is walk away from it when we hear it and if we want to speak, we should speak to the person directly. If we are a false witness by our words, we have broken the 9th commandment.
4. When we speak evil of our brother, we judge our brother and speak evil of the law. Often our judgment of others are based on our own perspective, malice, envy and misunderstanding too.
5. Before we judge others, let us remember what Jesus taught us to see the big beam in our own eyes before trying to pluck the small mote in our brother's eyes. In Matt 18, the Lord also laid the procedure for us to deal with such issue. It has to begin with a personal one to one talk with the brother.
6. Another reason not to speak evil of one other is that only God knows the inner heart and intent and motive of a person. We must have the fear of God and not try to usurp the position of God to judge others beyond what we can see and know.