

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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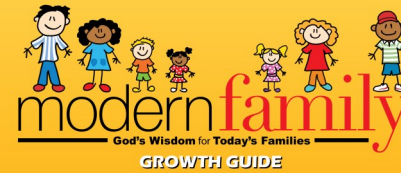
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Handout: 11/04/18

Study: 11/11/18

## Modern Family Communication

Late night talks, notes on the fridge, dinner conversations, and in a million other ways, the heartbeat of the family is expressed in our communication with each other. Pull out your Bible and discover some practical principles of communication from Ephesians 4 that will enhance your family's interaction.

**Principle 1: Make your home a haven of peace.** Read Ephesians 4:1-3  
Conflict is a normal part of any home. What will set your family apart is how you respond to each other when circumstances collide.

**Principle 2: Speak the truth in love.** Read Ephesians 4:14-16, 25  
To speak the truth means to be honest even when that involves taking a risk. To speak in love is to communicate the truth in kind and gentle terms. Often it has less to do with what you say than with how you say it.

**Principle 3: Communicate intentionally.** Read Ephesians 4:17, 21-24  
Think about the communication patterns you learned in your parents' home. Evaluate those positive and negative patterns. As you determine the communication pattern you'd like to characterize your home, what model in Ephesians 4:17, 21-24 establishes how you should communicate?

**Principle 4: Be angry, and yet do not sin.** Read Ephesians 4:26  
Anger is a God-given emotion. Sometimes it's even the most appropriate emotion you can have in a family conflict. But righteous anger concentrates on the wrong being done. Its goal is to right the wrong constructively, not to punish the person.

**Principle 5: Build each other up with wholesome language.** Read Ephesians 4:29  
Once your words are said, they can never be really taken back. What a frightening thought! Consider both the right words and the right timing, especially when speaking words of correction. Learn to be intentional about building up others. Model encouragement and affirmation to your children.

Here's a general rule for healthy communication: express three positive encouragements for every word of criticism.

**Principle 6: Choose kindness and forgiveness.** Read Ephesians 4:31-32  
Your home—your most intimate place on earth—needs to be a greenhouse of beauty and growth for you and your family. But this will only happen when you follow the instructions. When you're tempted to treat each other harshly, consider God's model of forgiveness and choose instead to be tender toward each other.

Ask yourself these questions: Do bitterness, wrath, clamor, and slander describe your home? Or do you choose to reflect the forgiveness God has given you and be tender-hearted to your family? Why not make Ephesians 4:31-32 your family's motto? Meditate on it, memorize it, and model it in front of your kids!  
Source: edited from “Family Communication God’s Way”

## KEY VERSE

Proverbs 18:21

*"Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
And those who love it will eat its fruit. NKJV"*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Proverbs 18:21; Ephesians 4:1-3**

### Introduction

1. What do you think good communication within a family looks like?
2. What are some obstacles to good communication in your family?

**Tuesday: Ephesians 4:14-16, 25; Colossians 4:6**

### Speak The Truth In Love

3. What does it mean to speak the truth in love within your family?
4. What are some ways you can lovingly express the truth to your family?

**Wednesday: Ephesians 4:17, 21-24; Psalm 141:3**

### Communicate With Purpose

5. How can God help you to have better communication with your family?
6. How has your relationship with Jesus changed the way you communicate with people?

**Thursday: James 3:1-12; Ephesians 4:26; Proverbs 15:1-2**

### Control Your Tongue

7. What is the tongue compared to in James 3:3-7?
8. Why is it important to bring your tongue under control? Why is it so difficult to control?
9. Give examples of how your words have affected the people in your family.
10. What is the difference between feeling anger and expressing anger?

**Friday: James 1:19; Proverbs 18:15; 25:12**

### Listen

11. What is the benefit of listening?
12. How often do you seek the wise counsel of people in your family?
13. What are some steps you can take to help your family have better communication?