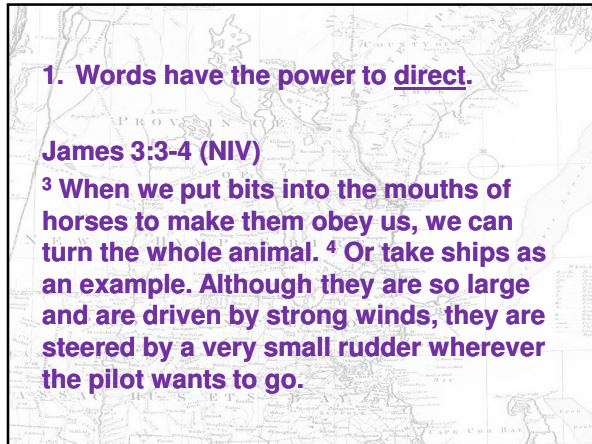


1. Words have the power to direct.

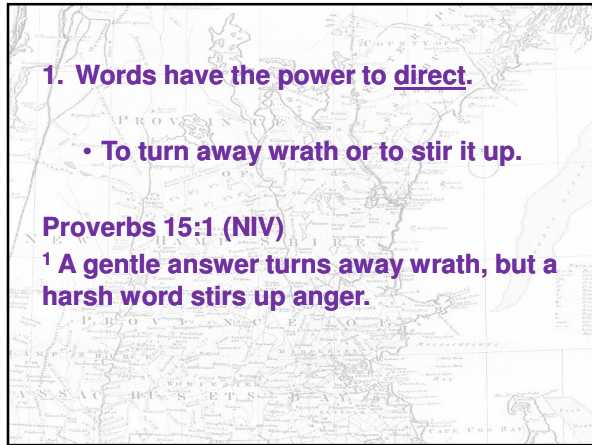
James 3:3-4 (NIV)
³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.



1. Words have the power to direct.

- To turn away wrath or to stir it up.

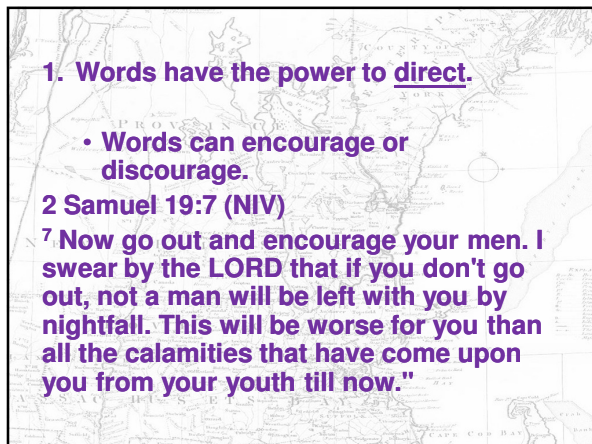
Proverbs 15:1 (NIV)
¹ A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.



1. Words have the power to direct.

- Words can encourage or discourage.

2 Samuel 19:7 (NIV)
⁷ Now go out and encourage your men. I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come upon you from your youth till now."



1. Words have the power to direct.

- **Words can direct us to have hope.**

Psalms 119:48-49 (NIV)
⁴⁸ I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love, and I meditate on your decrees.⁴⁹ Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope.

2. Words have the power to destroy life.

James 3:5-6 (NIV)
⁵ Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

2. Words have the power to destroy life.

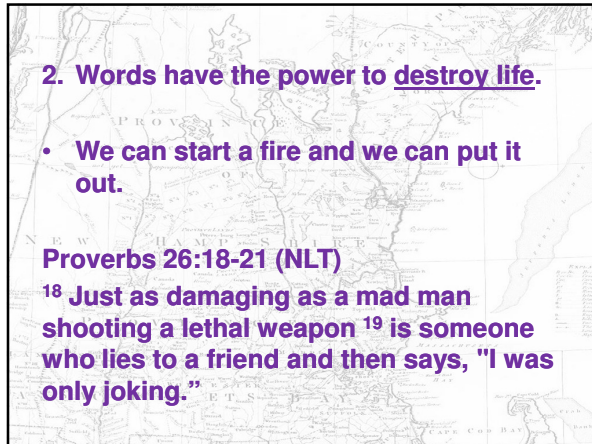
- **Life and death are in our words.**

Proverbs 18:21 (NIV)
²¹ The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

2. Words have the power to destroy life.

- We can start a fire and we can put it out.

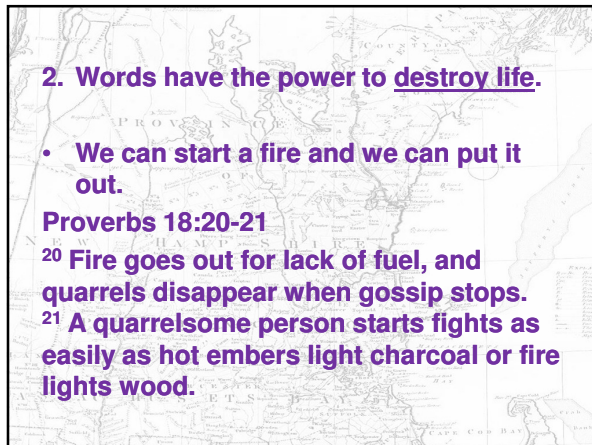
Proverbs 26:18-21 (NLT)
¹⁸ Just as damaging as a mad man shooting a lethal weapon ¹⁹ is someone who lies to a friend and then says, "I was only joking."



2. Words have the power to destroy life.

- We can start a fire and we can put it out.

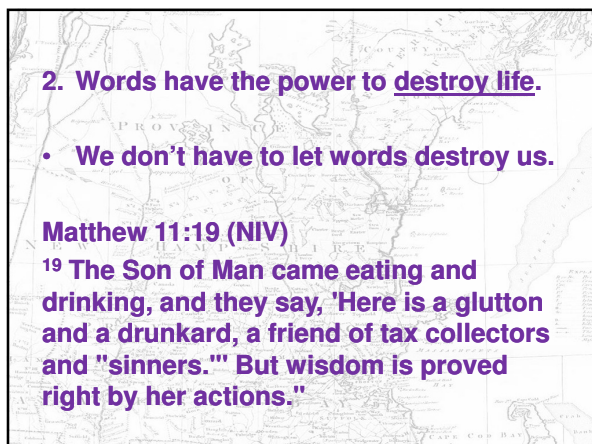
Proverbs 18:20-21
²⁰ Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.
²¹ A quarrelsome person starts fights as easily as hot embers light charcoal or fire lights wood.



2. Words have the power to destroy life.

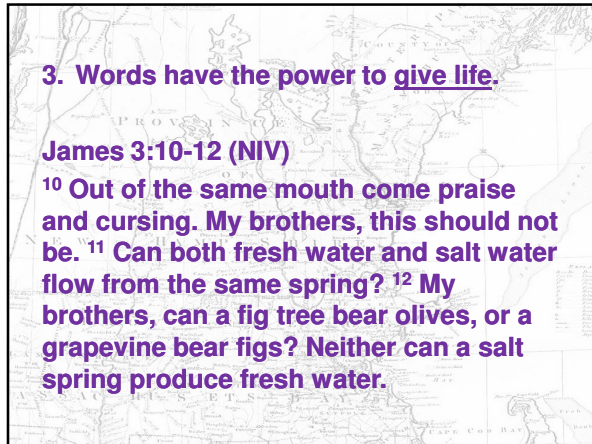
- We don't have to let words destroy us.

Matthew 11:19 (NIV)
¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners.'" But wisdom is proved right by her actions."



3. Words have the power to give life.

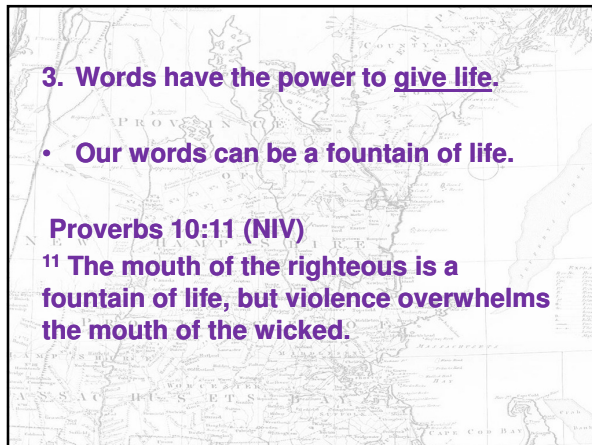
James 3:10-12 (NIV)
¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.



3. Words have the power to give life.

- Our words can be a fountain of life.

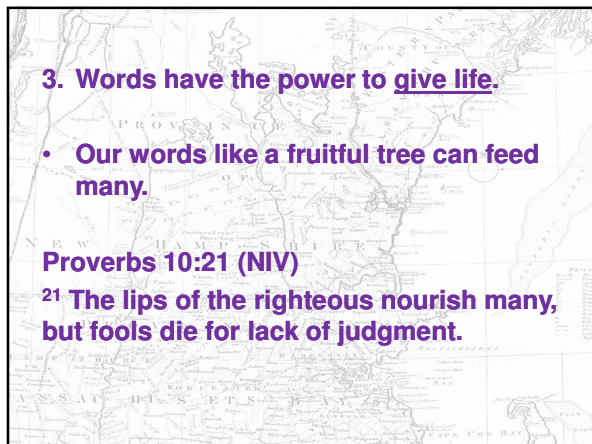
Proverbs 10:11 (NIV)
¹¹ The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.

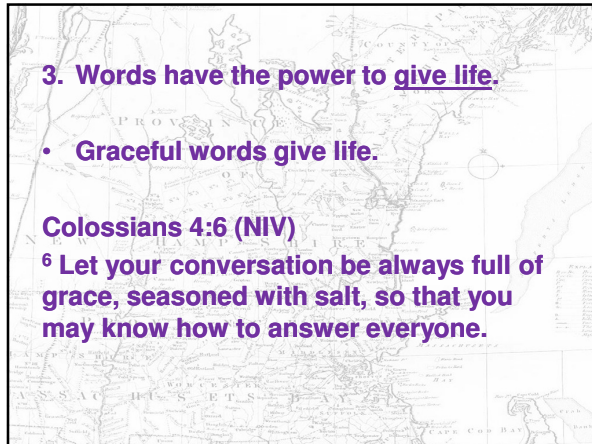


3. Words have the power to give life.

- Our words like a fruitful tree can feed many.

Proverbs 10:21 (NIV)
²¹ The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment.



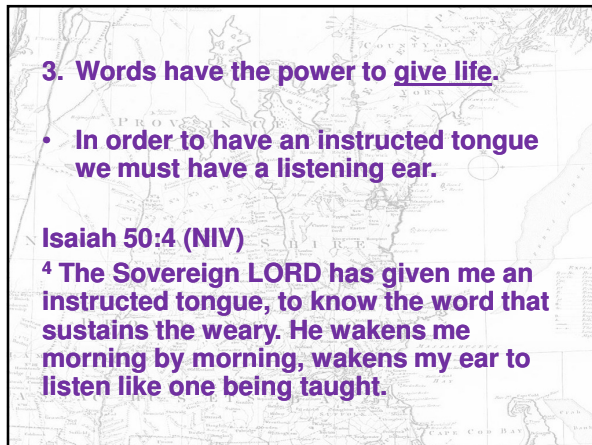


3. Words have the power to give life.

- **Graceful words give life.**

Colossians 4:6 (NIV)

⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.



3. Words have the power to give life.

- **In order to have an instructed tongue we must have a listening ear.**

Isaiah 50:4 (NIV)

⁴ The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.
