

## HANDLING GOSSIP

### Group Tip

We are bombarded with many gossip newspapers, television shows, and magazines. As followers of Christ, we must not entertain gossip but stop it in its tracks. Even the most well-meaning people sometimes slip into exchanging gossip by sharing, unnecessary information out of concern for others. Unfortunately, gossip or negative information shared in a group can tear it apart.

### Here's five ways to handle gossip:

1. Do not pass on gossip.
2. If it sounds like gossip stop the person immediately and graciously tell him/her that you would rather not hear the rest of the story.
3. If it is already out in the open, ask the person if he or she has prayed for that person over a period of time and examined their own life (Matthew 7:3).
4. Ask also, if he or she has judged the person (Luke 6:37) or passed this on to anyone else. If so, he or she may need to go back to those he or she spoke with and ask for forgiveness. If he or she has stood in judgment, encourage him or her to ask God and perhaps the person for forgiveness.
5. You may also want to study these passages from Proverbs in your group (Proverbs 11:13, 16:28, 20:19, 26:20).

Encourage your group to refuse to listen to gossip. You may want to use some of these great ideas to role-play a situation and have a group discussion.

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