

Built on Covenant: God's Heart for Marriage

Session 4 — Covenant Communication: Speech, Listening, and Repair

Session Aim

This session teaches that communication in marriage is not merely a skill, but a covenant responsibility. Words either protect or erode what God has joined. Covenant communication seeks truth, preserves unity, and pursues repair rather than avoidance.

Session Big Idea

In covenant marriage, communication is not about winning, defending, or being heard first. It is about honoring the relationship God has joined and guarding unity through truthful, grace-filled speech.

Section 1 — Words Shape the Marriage Covenant

Proverbs 18:21 (KJV)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Scripture presents words as morally powerful. Words are not neutral sounds; they shape hearts, build trust, or destroy it. In covenant marriage, careless speech, sarcasm, silence, and contempt are not merely communication styles but covenant violations.

Section 2 — The Covenant Order of Communication

James 1:19-20 (KJV)

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

James gives a covenant order for communication: listen first, speak carefully, and govern anger. Covenant communication does not deny emotion but refuses ungoverned speech that damages unity.

Section 3 — Speaking Truth as Members of One Body

Ephesians 4:25 (KJV)

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Truth must be spoken in marriage, but always with awareness that husband and wife are members of one body. Truth spoken without love becomes cruelty; love without truth becomes avoidance.

Section 4 — Removing Covenant-Destroying Speech

Ephesians 4:29-31 (KJV)

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.

Paul identifies destructive patterns that erode covenant: bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting, and evil speaking. Unchecked bitterness eventually finds a voice. Covenant faithfulness requires actively putting these away.

Section 5 — Speech That Gives Grace

Colossians 4:6 (KJV)

Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Grace-filled speech does not avoid hard truths but delivers them in ways that invite repentance and restoration. Salt preserves; it does not burn. Covenant speech protects the bond God has joined.

Section 6 — Dealing with Anger Before It Hardens

Ephesians 4:26-27 (KJV)

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

Unresolved anger creates distance and suspicion. Covenant marriage calls couples to address offense rather than stockpile grievances. Avoidance is not peace; it is delayed damage.

Section 7 — Repair as a Covenant Practice

Matthew 18:15 (KJV)

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone.

Repair is a covenant skill. Strong marriages are not conflict-free; they are repair-rich. Repair requires humility, confession, and willingness to restore connection.