



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of November 17, 2025

1. Have you ever worked for a horrible boss? Were they over-bearing, micro-managing, or trouble-making? What was it like working for him or her? Share your real-life experience with your Life Group.
2. Read Proverbs 26:17-22, in at least two different Bible translations. Who is the third type of person that King Solomon calls us to avoid knowing and being?
3. Have you ever encountered a stray dog that was angry or aggressive? Why would you be wise to avoid such an animal? How does Solomon connect the “stray dog” to a trouble-making individual?

What is a “meddler” or a “busybody”? What sin are they known for?

4. What wise advice does the New Testament give to Christians regarding the sin of “meddling” in other people’s business? Use 1 Thessalonians 4:11 and 1 Peter 4:15 as part of your answer.
5. Have you ever been on the receiving end of a backhanded compliment, a patronizing putdown, or a snide comment from a passive-aggressive person? How does the trouble-making person try to hide their wounding words or walk-back their personal attack according to verse 19?
6. As kids we used to chant, “...*Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me.*” But the Bible says that words are incredibly destructive. What does Proverbs 12:18 reveal about this? What is supposed to be the Christian’s approach to words, according to Ephesians 4:29?
7. Name some of the ways that you’ve seen trouble-making people “stoke up” trouble and controversy. What are some of their tactics? How do they keep the fires of drama and conflict burning hot? Even at church— explain how a “prayer request” session could potentially turn into hurtful gossip.
8. What does Proverbs say about “gossip” and “tale-bearing”? Explain your answer after reading Proverbs 26:20—along with 11:13, 16:28, and 20:19. Why is it so shameful for a Christian person to be a gossip?

TALK ABOUT IT: Natalie is a believer in your church. She is not happy that the local library is going to display pro-LGBT and transgender children’s books in the kids’ section of the public library. She is attending the meeting at the Township next week, and intends to speak up and voice her displeasure. Is she being a troublemaker? Why or why not? What is the difference between “getting involved” and “getting into someone else’s business”?

Christians really do turn the world upside down, by being peacemakers and not troublemakers.