



THEME OF THE MONTH

Discretion

Considering Others Before We Speak or Act (Discretion vs. Recklessness)

1. Exercising wise self-restraint in speech or behavior
2. Being modest in one's speech or conduct w/ others
3. Respecting privacy or maintaining silence about something of delicate nature
4. Careful consideration of the implication of words or actions

Why is Discretion Important?

"Discretion is a life-giving fountain to those who possess it, but discipline is wasted on fools..."

Proverbs 16:22 NLT

"A beautiful woman who lacks discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout..."

Proverbs 11:22 NLT

"The wise are cautious and avoid danger, but fools plunge ahead with reckless confidence..."

Proverbs 14:6 NLT

"The prudent (wise) carefully consider their steps..."

Proverbs 14:15 NLT

How Do We Practice Discretion?

1. We choose our words and actions wisely, thinking before speak or act.
2. We exercise modesty, and avoid vulgar or inappropriate speech or acts.
3. We practice restraint in our speech, conduct and dress (attire).
4. We offer correction in private, considering the feelings of others.
5. We control our emotions, lest our emotions taint our saying or doing.



MAT CHAT TALKING POINTS

1. Why is discretion important in dealing with other people?
2. How does the lack of discretion affect our relationships with others?
3. What role does modesty play in our interactions with others?
4. How does inappropriate speech or actions affect how others perceive you?
5. How do we practice discretion in cyberspace? (Facebook, Twitter, etc...)
6. Can we say the right thing in the wrong way or at the wrong time? Why is this bad?
7. What is the difference between being critical and offering correction?
8. Why is it important to offer praise along with correction? (Praise-Correct-Praise)
9. How do our emotions color our words and deeds?
10. If we fail to control our emotions when interacting with others, how is truth tainted?

Talking Points:

Discretion is Fundamental: Discretion is a fundamental requirement to positive relationships. When we consider how our words and actions impact others, we understand the power these things can have on others. Discretion allows us to temper our emotions.

Discretion requires Modesty: Having regard for decency of behavior, speech and dress and practicing moderation are essential elements of living a life of discretion.

Discretion is about Manners: Manners do matter, and discretion is about using manners in an appropriate context. Manners tell us how to respect one another, interact with one another, and treat one another to get the best out of any relationship. Discretion is the right use of manners.

Discretion requires Emotional Control: When our emotions are out of control, we are as well. Practicing discretion requires that we control the state of our emotions and not allow them to “charge” our speech or conduct. Our words and actions can (and do) have power over another person, and once released toward another person, cannot be taken back. Negative emotions have negative repercussions on others, and should be avoided.