**Table Talk**

**Sermon Series: Shallow - Conversations**

 **February 28, 2021**

**Introduction (8 min)**

Table Talk Groups (45 minute study) begin by watching the video and sharing the story below, then open up the discussion with the questions provided.

Southside Home (35 minute study) can skip to “Starting the Discussion” as a follow up to the worship experience.

**Table Talk Video: Shallow – Conversations**

I’ve shared before that college wasn’t on the fast track for me. I never planned on attending at all but my parents and pastor encouraged me to attend community college for a year. When God called me to ministry I entered a fulltime, 4 year university. I somehow managed to turn that into a 5 year process, so it took me 6 years total to earn my degree. All that to say, the following statement has a lot of weight behind it.

One of my favorite experiences in college was sitting in my truck with Ashley and having long conversations as we drove around the Ohio countryside. Sometimes those conversations would be 3 or 4 hours long and even then, seemed like they were cut too short. Yes, I was in love, but that wasn’t the only reason I wanted them to go on longer.

What is it about deep conversation that makes our soul feel alive? I believe it is because we were created to connect. We were created to connect with God, and in his image to connect with other people as the Body of Christ.

Take some time in this study and don’t just answer the questions. Connect with God through is Word. Connect with each other in meaningful conversation as you share your experiences as related to the questions. Don’t miss out on something great by tip toeing in the shallow end. Go deep in your conversations and find some of that joy that you were created for!

- Pastor Reggie Phillips

**Prayer (2 minutes)**

Loving Father, guide our discussion today and teach us what it means to have holy conversation. Bless us with that very thing as we share together about what your Word has to say to us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Starting the Discussion (3 minutes)**

1. Do you care for someone who is pulling away from you right now and how have you responded to them?

**Unfolding the Biblical Story (24 minutes)**

**Invite someone to read Ephesians 4:29**

1. Do you consider yourself as someone who is careful about what you say or do you struggle with your mouth getting ahead of your brain?
2. Have you ever thought about why God gave you the gift of communication and conversation? What are some reasons he might have given us this gift?

**Read Matthew 12:34-37**

1. Think about the words you have spoken this week, maybe to your kids, your spouse or to someone at church. Just judging by the words you spoke and nothing else, would they judge your heart as good or evil?
2. One powerful caution Paul gives is about speaking empty words. Have you spoken words that you were not emotionally attached to (as in your really didn’t mean it) but it landed like a dagger on the recipient?
3. Parents, sometimes we speak empty words to fill space when we are correcting our kids. We have already made our point but keep speaking to let our emotions out. Can you see evidence of hurting your kids by speaking this kind of empty words into a tough situation?

**Invite someone to read James 3:5**

1. What reactions are your words drawing out of the people around you? Are you lighting emotional fires or quenching them?
2. How can you be more intentional with your words this week? How can you use your words steer the people around you closer to God and closer to you?

**Prayer (2 minutes)**

Father God, help us to carefully consider our words and how you would desire for us to use them to engage others with your love. We want to be a source of blessing and enjoy meaningful, joy filled conversations that lift others up. Help us to do just that. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Wrapping Up (2 minutes)**

See if anyone has lingering questions or insights to share from your time of study and prayer. Summarize the group discussion as a reminder of what you learned together.

**Scripture Challenge (4 minutes)**

This week try to memorizing Ephesians 4:29. Use any of the following tools to help you: write it out, repeat it a few times as a group, set it to music, or draw an image that incorporates the words.