Proverbs 18

An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels. 2 Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions. 3 When wickedness comes, so does contempt, and with shame comes reproach. 4 The words of the mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a rushing stream. 5 It is not good to be partial to the wicked and so deprive the innocent of justice. 6 The lips of fools bring them strife, and their mouths invite a beating. 7 The mouths of fools are their undoing, and their lips are a snare to their very lives. 8 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts. 9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys. 10 The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. 11 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it a wall too high to scale. 12 Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor. 13 To answer before listening—that is folly and shame. 14 The human spirit can endure in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear? 15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out. 16 A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great. 17 In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and crossexamines. 18 Casting the lot settles disputes and keeps strong opponents apart. 19 A brother wronged is more unyielding than a fortified city; disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel. 20 From the fruit of their mouth a person's stomach is filled; with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied. 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. 22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord. 23 The poor plead for mercy, but the rich answer harshly. 24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Devotion:

Our words have a huge impact. As kids we are taught the old saying think before you speak. The older we get sometimes it seems to be harder and harder. We have so many thoughts and opinions that develop and sometime those thoughts spill out in unkind ways. We lash out because of anger or frustration. We may even find ourselves wishing to take back the words as they come out of our mouths. We let the frustrations of life take over and we spill out negativity. Proverbs 18:2 says, "Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions." We as humans act in foolish ways everyday. This foolish behavior makes us lean on on our savior. When we act and speak in ways that are not appropriate we have a Savior who takes us by the hand and redirects us back to Him and His purpose. He shows us grace and forgiveness. That is the whole purpose of the Easter story after all. He died and rose again for us without us having to do anything to deserve that great love. What a beautiful gift and reminder to think before we speak and to be using our words to glorify Him instead of hurt others around us. We have the words to show God's love to everyone around us, especially the little ones at the ECC. Prayer: Lord Thank you for the blessing of your Son. I pray that you would remind us to think about words that would please you before we speak them. I pray that you would continually give us the grace and love we need since we fall down daily looking to you. Help us especially show your love through our words with the little ones you have blessed us with in our classrooms. Amen.

Prayer Journal: How can you actively think before you speak this week, looking to use your words to glorify God?