

## Proverbs 10:11

Your Mouth

*Your mouth ...*

- I. According to Wisdom
  - A. Life Sapping
  - B. Life Giving
- II. According to James
  - A. Wild
  - B. Tamable
- III. According to Jesus
  - A. Revealing
  - B. Reviewed

*... put to good use.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. Why is it so important to be careful about what we say?
2. What should we do if we hurt someone by what we said to them?
3. What are some good ways we can use our words?

### **No Empty Words**

Our sermon series in the book of James in 2016 included a series of 7 sermons dealing directly with the use of our tongue. Like so many verses in this great book of Wisdom, Proverbs, James addressed the power of words. At the time it may have seemed like the theme was hammered ad nauseam, but it is hard to overstress how crucial it is to choose carefully what we say. We can do great damage intentionally or unintentionally with what we say. Simply consider the negative impact things like gossip, lies and degrading comments can do. James writes some scathing things about misusing our tongues. Conversely our words can do a world of good: simply consider the great value of encouraging comments, speaking the truth in love – and of course telling people about Jesus! Jesus also has much to say about our words often addressing the bigger issues of confessing or denying Him and the place that plays in the judgment. Needless to say, now and then we need to be reminded that we must regularly guard our speech, and this little proverb prompts us to do just that.