

**Faith that Works**  
May 6, 2007

“Judging Rightly”  
James 4:11-12

Introduction:

What do the digestive habits of spiders and gossip have in common? Today we will learn of the death that malicious talk brings to our community.

Interpretation:

- When we \_\_\_\_\_ maliciously about others we \_\_\_\_\_ God’s authority and power.

Application:

- Talk \_\_\_\_\_ others, not \_\_\_\_\_ them
- Judge according to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, not simply man’s wisdom
- \_\_\_\_\_ before you share your judgments

## Going Deeper

1. Considering the lesson in entomology on Sunday, how have you personally experienced the similarities between gossip and the digestive habits of spiders?
2. What is the difference between judging and being judgmental? How have you seen the two being confused?
3. What Biblical judgments of right and wrong behavior are often labeled as judgmental by today's popular culture?
4. Considering Jesus' prohibition on judging others (Matthew 7:1-6), how are we to judge the world and angels as Paul indicates (1 Corinthians 6:3)?
5. On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you do at avoiding malicious talk? When you gossip what fuels your behavior? (ex. Low self-esteem, self-righteousness, longing for power)
6. On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you do at turning away those who want you to listen while they talk maliciously about others?

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