

**Musselburgh Baptist Church**  
**Oaks of Righteousness**  
***Growing Others***

**James 1:19 Be swift to hear and slow to speak.(KJV)**

**Learning to speak**  
**(What the survey tells us about dialoguing our neighbours)**

This part of the study seeks to develop an appropriate response to the information we have gathered with respect for the person and the work that God has already been doing in their life, with a gentle yet stubborn determination to help people discover the fullness that Jesus promised (John 10:10) through a committed relationship with him.

**LEARNING TO SPEAK**

Read 1 Peter 3:8-15

This scripture is helpful to consider as we think how we might respond to our neighbours.

1. What does this passage say we should do *before* we speak?
2. Do you think this is about building trust with others?
3. What is "happiness for a Christian? Consider also Hebrews 13:5 Phil 4:11
4. What must the attitude of our response be?
5. What do you think is the response or answer that Peter is alluding to?

Now consider the survey data as outlined in the previous studies as we hone the sort of response that we make.

1. What are the areas of commonality we share with the community?
2. Keeping in mind our scripture passage, how would you share some of your own spiritual experiences and answers to prayer. Practice doing this in your group.
3. Regarding the issue of "the future", what is the source of a Christians hope and how might we share that? (see Heb 3:6)
4. Prayer was a fairly universal consideration. Would you consider praying with your neighbours if they expressed a need? How would you go about that?
5. Do you think that the expectations people have of the Church (spiritually focussed and socially / community concerned) are realistic? Are these things evident in your life (consider again 1 Peter 3)

**Take time for Prayer**

- Practice praying for the needs of one another in the group. Learn to use short, specific, answerable prayers
- Confess your sins and weaknesses according to our scripture reading and ask for Gods strength, confidence and boldness in living up to God's call on us
- Lastly pray for your neighbours and friends, that God may continue to work in them, that we might create enough trust for them to share this with us, and that we may have the wisdom to speak Gods word into their hearts.