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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Talking Torah

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Watch or read first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family or homeschool use, an adult may choose a shorter section and accept spoken answers.

The summary is a reading aid. Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the teaching](#)

Teaching summary

This teaching examines how believers can discuss Torah with maturity and love, especially when they are new to its Hebrew culture and context. It warns against sharing everything immediately. Using the fruit-tree instructions in Leviticus 19:23-25 as an analogy, it recommends focused growth before in-depth discussions or discipling others. The transcript suggests at least three years and later speaks of three to five years of maturity; this is the ministry's experience-based guidance, not a biblical rule requiring every believer to remain silent for a fixed number of years. Newer believers are encouraged to study and test Scripture, seek the Father's guidance through the Holy Spirit, and measure all human teachers and ministries against the word of YHWH.

The teaching then considers what to do when a Torah discussion cannot be avoided. It explains that believers should not go deeply into subjects they do not understand well and should be willing to listen, thank the other person for what was shared, and study the matter afterward. Apologetics is presented as being able to defend what one believes, but even a well-prepared believer is not responsible for convincing another person's heart. That work belongs to the Father through the Holy Spirit. When a difficult conversation occurs, the teaching recommends examining one's own attitude and approach, remembering Matthew 7:6 when someone is not ready or receptive, returning to common ground and the redeeming work of Messiah, and keeping attention fixed on YHWH and his word. The examples in 1 Corinthians 4:12 and 1 Peter 2:21-23 reinforce the need to bless, endure, and follow Yeshua's example rather than retaliate.

A major portion of the teaching focuses on attitude. It explains that perspective is the lens through which a person interprets events and words, and that perspective shapes attitude, which then affects tone, words, and actions. Anger, distrust, or a sense of betrayal can make a believer a poor witness, while love, joy, thankfulness, humility, gentleness, peace, and self-control help a person represent the Father well. The goal of a conversation should be to share truth in love, not to prove a point, rebuke someone into agreement, or show that the other person's beliefs are wrong. The teaching contrasts an aggressive, accusatory approach with a gentler invitation to discuss what one is learning, then urges believers to examine their motivation, their ability to remain calm when challenged, and their actual knowledge of the subject before continuing a conversation.

The discussion of words expands that self-examination into six practical considerations: the purpose of the conversation, the ability to stay calm and loving, one's knowledge of the subject, whether the other person believes the whole Word of God, how deeply held the person's beliefs are, and whether the person is genuinely open to other perspectives and seeking truth. Believers are told not to fake answers they do not know, but to admit the limits of their knowledge and learn.

First Peter 3:15 is used to connect apologetics with gentleness and respect. The teaching also warns that blunt accusations, snide remarks, condescension, and treating other believers as enemies can damage relationships and misrepresent YHWH. Scripture passages about the tongue emphasize that words can bring life or death, healing or harm, and should be used to build others up rather than wound them.

These principles are applied especially strongly to online communication, where tone and body language are absent and it can be easier to speak harshly from behind a screen. The teaching rejects insulting labels, slander, accusations, and attempts to justify hostile speech by claiming to imitate Yeshua's confrontations. It points instead to Yeshua's instructions to turn the other cheek, love enemies, pray for persecutors, and leave when people refuse to receive the message. Galatians 5 is used to contrast the works of the flesh - including strife, anger, rivalries, dissensions, and divisions - with the fruit of the Spirit. Whether a conversation happens online or face-to-face, the other person was created by the Father and is to be treated with love.

Finally, the teaching addresses actions. Actions include not only physical behavior but also body language, tone, volume, projected emotion, persistence, and whether a person's conduct matches his or her words. Once someone has clearly said they are not interested, repeatedly pursuing the issue can irritate the person, give Torah followers a bad reputation, and make the believer a poor representative of the Father. Oversharing can also overwhelm someone with information they are not ready to receive; the teaching compares this to giving meat before a person is ready for it and recommends beginning with common ground rather than immediately introducing divisive or advanced subjects. The conclusion emphasizes that sharing the Word is less about telling everyone one's beliefs and more about living a faithful witness. Believers should grow in the Word, wait for the opportunities YHWH provides, pray for guidance, and keep a tight rein on their attitudes, words, and actions so that conversations remain rooted in love, peace, and the Word.

Summary points

- The teaching recommends maturity and a firm foundation in the word before deep Torah discussions or discipling others.
- The teaching uses Leviticus 19:23-25 as an analogy for maturity; the passage itself commands how to treat a tree's fruit, not how many years a believer must wait before speaking.
- Scripture should be studied and tested first, and the teachings of people and ministries should be measured against the Word of God.
- A believer is not responsible for convincing another person's heart; that work belongs to the Father through the Holy Spirit.
- The goal of Torah conversations should be sharing truth in love rather than proving a point, winning an argument, or rebuking someone into agreement.
- Perspective shapes attitude, and attitude affects the words, tone, and actions others experience.
- Before engaging deeply, believers should consider their motivation, emotional self-control, knowledge, and the other person's beliefs and receptiveness.
- Words can build up or wound, so apologetics must be practiced with gentleness, respect, humility, and self-control.
- Online conversations require the same loving standards as face-to-face conversations and can demand even more care because tone and body language are missing.
- A faithful witness requires restraint in attitude, words, and actions, including knowing when to stop, avoid oversharing, return to common ground, and let one's life reflect YHWH's love.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. The teaching's fruit-tree model for spiritual maturity comes from _____.
2. New believers are encouraged to spend focused time studying and testing the _____ before relying on the teachings of people.
3. Convincing a person of truth at the heart level is the job of the Father through the _____.
4. The teaching says the goal of communication should be sharing, not _____.
5. Apologetics is described as defending your _____.
6. When discussing Torah, believers are told to keep a tight rein on their attitudes, words, and _____.

Challenging

1. In Leviticus 19:23-25, the fruit becomes available for ordinary eating in the _____ year; the fourth year's fruit is holy, an offering of praise to YHWH.
2. According to 1 Peter 3:15, a defense should be made with gentleness and _____.
3. Of the six questions in the 'Considering Others...First' section, the teaching points out that _____ are about you.
4. Ephesians 6:12 says that our struggle is not against flesh and _____.
5. Proverbs 6:16,19 says YHWH hates one who sows _____ among brothers.
6. The teaching says oversharing can amount to giving someone _____ long before they are ready for it.

Group discussion

Discuss with respect, support answers from the passages, and allow time to think. Use the lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. How does the teaching use the fruit-tree instructions in Leviticus 19 as an analogy for maturity? Why should its suggested waiting period be distinguished from a biblical command?

2. How do perspective, motivation, and attitude work together to influence the words and actions that another person experiences in a conversation?

3. Why does the teaching distinguish between someone being offended by the Word and someone being offended because of our word choices, tone, or manner?

4. How should the six questions in the 'Considering Others...First' section help a believer decide whether to continue a Torah discussion, keep it brief, or stop?

5. Why can online communication make unloving speech easier, and how does the teaching apply the fruit of the Spirit to conversations behind a screen?

6. What does the teaching mean when it says sharing the Word is less about telling everyone our beliefs and more about living our faith, and how does that connect to attitudes, words, and actions?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching; references help you check the wording and context. Accept equivalent wording where appropriate.

Basic

1. Leviticus 19

Leviticus 19:23–25

2. Word of God

Teaching section “To Talk Torah or Not”

3. Holy Spirit

Teaching section “Talking Torah...If You Must”

4. rebuking

Teaching section “Perspectives and Attitudes”

5. faith

1 Peter 3:15

6. actions

Teaching “Conclusion”

Challenging

1. fifth

Leviticus 19:23–25

2. respect

1 Peter 3:15

3. three

Teaching section “About Your Words”

4. blood

Ephesians 6:12

5. discord

Proverbs 6:16,19

6. meat

Teaching section “The Dangers of Oversharing”

Facilitator notes

These are suggested directions for discussion, not a required script or a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passage and consider a faithful practical response.

1. The fruit-tree passage illustrates allowing time for growth before expecting mature fruit. The ministry applies it to preparation for deep Torah discussions and teaching. Its suggested three-to-five-year period comes from experience and analogy, not an explicit biblical command governing every believer.

Leviticus 19:23–25; transcript section “To Talk Torah or Not”

2. Perspective shapes how we interpret another person and our purpose in speaking. An attitude rooted in love is more likely to produce patient words and respectful actions; anger or superiority can turn even accurate statements into a damaging encounter.

Transcript sections “Perspectives and Attitudes” and “Some Examples”

3. We cannot guarantee that someone will welcome a biblical claim, but we are responsible for avoidable harm from our speech and conduct. Self-examination asks whether the person is responding to the teaching itself or to arrogance, accusation, tone, or pressure.

1 Peter 3:15; Ephesians 4:29

4. The first three questions test our purpose, self-control, and knowledge. The other three consider the listener’s view of Scripture, strongly held beliefs, and openness. Their answers help us share briefly, admit uncertainty, remain on common ground, or respectfully stop.

Transcript section “Considering Others...First”

5. Online words lack tone and body language, and distance makes careless hostility easier. The teaching calls for the same love and accountability online as in person. Patience, gentleness, kindness, and self-control should replace insults, provocation, strife, and divisive comments.

Galatians 5:13–15, 19–23, 26; Proverbs 6:16, 19

6. Faith is communicated by a life that matches its words. Maturity, humble speech, respectful boundaries, and loving conduct make room for fruitful discussion. We should pray, keep learning, and share when welcome rather than press others to agree.

Transcript sections “Your Actions,” “The Dangers of Oversharing,” and “Conclusion”

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages you studied. What will you do, and when will you revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.
