



## Dealing with Gossip



### Bell Ringer

When has gossip been a problem in your life or a friend's life?



### Notes:

What is gossip?

Why was gossip important historically?



### Small Groups: Evaluating and Responding to Gossip

Use the guidelines to evaluate each scenario and decide how you would respond.

#### Test of Three + One Group Guidelines

**TRUTH:** Is it fact or rumor? (Consider the source.)

**GOODNESS:** Will it hurt or cause other negative consequences for the person?

**USEFULNESS:** Is there any potential benefit in repeating it? (e.g., safety)

**EMPATHY:** How would you feel if the subject of the gossip were you, or a friend of yours?



#### Scenario #1

Someone in one of your classes said that your ex-girlfriend/boyfriend got drunk and hooked up with "so-and-so" at a party.

#### Scenario #2

You keep hearing that one of your teammates must be taking steroids because he looks like the Hulk.

#### Scenario #3

A friend tells you a student with high grades cheats a lot.

#### Scenario #4

You hear someone has a gun in his locker.



### Reflection/Application

The next time someone tries to share gossip with you, how do you plan to respond?