

12/31/13 - Speak Up!

RG AUDIO 123113

Psalm 19:1-14

Can you remember how many skinned knees, cuts, or bruises you got as a kid? No? I can't either. It's likely, however, that we can recall hurtful words we have received through the years. Words can carry a lasting punch.

- **God uses words to create.** Light and life originate from the mighty proclamation, "Let there be" (Gen. 1:3, 6).
- **God uses words to call.** "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward" (Gen. 15:1).
- **God uses words to condemn.** "Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; . . . I will turn my hand against you" (Isa. 1:16b-17a, 25a).
- **God also uses words to redeem.** Redemption is conveyed in God's innumerable promises to repentant Israel. It is fully expressed in the *Word (logos)* (Jn. 1:1-5), the living expression of God incarnate in Jesus.

May our words be graced with thoughtful reflection on God's truth, awareness of our shortcomings, and reverence for the One who gave us the remarkable ability to express His redeeming word.

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Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD