

WATCH YOUR MOUTH

Later the boy returned home, appearing fine - until Mrs Vodden received a call from the school saying he had been taken off the bus on his way home, because he had been hitting the air vent and making a gesture at the driver.

Mrs Vodden said her son became frustrated when she asked him what had happened: "He said, 'I won't tell you, and I can't tell you'. I followed him and stopped him from leaving the room. I said, 'Sweetheart, you have got to tell me, because we can't help you unless you tell me what has happened'."

He retreated to his bedroom, before emerging and giving his mother a hug, telling her: "I'm sorry, mummy."

He went back into his bedroom and closed the door. Mrs Vodden said she heard him crying in a way he had not done before.

Her husband later returned and went to ask their son what had happened. Mr Vodden opened the bedroom door to find him hanging from the bunk bed.

The 11-year-old was pronounced dead at Worthing hospital.

Matthew 12:36-37 ³⁶ *But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.* ³⁷ *For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."*

Proverbs 18:21 ²¹ *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.*

- The tongue is a representation of the words that we speak.

Speak Death

- You can speak and it be death
- You can not speak and it still be death
- You can say the right thing the wrong way and still be death

- The death part of our tongue is easy to use
- **Romans 4:17** ¹⁷ *(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”^[a]) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did*

Speak Life

- **John 10:10** ¹⁰ *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*
- When speech is needed speak life
- Sometimes there is life when we don’t speak, but let the Holy Spirit speak.
- Speak the right thing at the right time and the right way
- Speaking life is much more difficult, but is what we are called to do
- **John 7:38** ³⁸ *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”*

You might only get one chance to reach someone or impact their life.

Your tongue most likely will be what you use.

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- Tell story of me going into the Marines and Pastor Eng talking to me.