

GROWTH GUIDE

For you. Your family. Your group.

THE BOOK OF JAMES
THE TONGUE | JAMES 3:1-12
FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 16, 2022

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The tongue is difficult to tame. James 3:1-2
2. The tongue is tiny but powerful. James 3:3-5a
3. The tongue is capable of great damage James 3:5b-8
4. The tongue is inclined to inconsistency. James 3:9-12

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Looking back at the passage and your notes, is there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Share a memory of when a word of life was spoken to you and it greatly encouraged you or made a significant difference for you. What about it was so impactful for you?
3. What makes it so difficult to tame the tongue? What are some things that can help us do that?
4. We all know both from the truth of God's word and from personal experience that words have the potential to be a great blessing or a terrible destructive force. What makes words so powerful to us? How do we discern those times we should consider some words more important than others? Give some examples of words or sources of words that should have greater impact on us, and some that should have less.
5. If you see unrighteous, unhelpful, or evil words coming out of your mouth, what does that indicate about your heart or what you desire? It may help to think of specific scenarios. For example, if I tend to use angry words when my children disobey, that might indicate I desire obedience for my own convenience rather than out of love for them.

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

1. One way we can use our words is speaking in prayer without ceasing and confessing sin and asking for forgiveness when we fail. How is your prayer life going in general? How is confessing/repenting to God specifically going?
2. In what way do you think you struggle most with your tongue? Gossip, cursing, slandering, or something else? Knowing this about yourself, what should you do about it?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Praise God for giving us His word, His perfect communication to us for our good.
2. Pray for our Trunk or Treat event coming up in a couple of weeks, that we would love our community well through it.
3. Ask God to help us tame our tongues, that they would be used for edification and building up.