



THE BOOK OF
JAMES
FAITH IN ACTION

Trash Talk - James 4:11-12

1. Reflect on a time when your words caused harm to someone else. How did that experience affect your relationship with that person? What steps did you take to seek reconciliation, if any?
2. What practical steps can you take to guard your tongue against slander and negative speech in your daily life? Consider specific actions or changes in behavior.
3. How does slander affect the overall health and unity of a church community? What role can you play in fostering a more positive and supportive environment within your church?
4. In the age of social media and instant communication, how can believers navigate the temptation to engage in slanderous or negative speech online? Share some strategies to maintain a Christ-like presence in digital spaces.
5. Reflect on Matthew 7:1-5 and Romans 14:1-12. How do these passages inform your understanding of judging others and speaking against them? How can you apply these teachings in your interactions with others?
6. Consider the different forms of slander from the study (e.g., Direct False Accusations, Insinuations and Implications, Spreading Rumors, Character Assassination, Libel, Gossip, Defamation by Association, Misrepresentation, Backhanded Compliments, Exaggeration). Which of these do you find most challenging to avoid? What can you do to overcome this challenge?
7. How does understanding that God has redeemed your speech change the way you communicate with others? In what ways can you use your words to build up, encourage, and show mercy to others, rather than tear them down?