

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 10/15/2023

James 3 – Faith. Action. Wisdom.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- What would your brother have to do to convince you that he was the Son of God?
- Everyone needs to hear what James has to say.
- **Have you ever been in a place where you've said something and wish you could immediately take it back?**
- Our tongues have great power: encourage-destroy, life-pain (death), etc.
- **Verse 3-4** a bit is small, but can control a large horse
 - Sometimes what we say changes the direction of how we interact with our families and friends.
 - We shouldn't go flipping our tongues around. Small words can have a great impact.
 - When we are able to control our tongues, we show great maturity
 - A rudder, though small can change direction. (A bit controls)
 - Our tongue, though a small part of our body, can steer us in the wrong direction.
 - Make great boasts = puffs ourselves up
 - The promise of big things whether we follow through or not.
- **Verse 5-6** our tongue can have the same power or effect of a lightning bolt causing forest fires
 - Our communication can get us in trouble all the time. Our words can kill.
 - We can speak life or death into relationships.
 - Our words kill and destroy or breath life into others
- Truth is, it's not really what our tongues do...**it's all about the heart**
 - Our tongue does not have a life of its own
 - Our heart determines a relationship quality
 - **Mt. 12:34**, "The mouth speaks what the heart is full of." ~Jesus
- It's about our heart, and our heart is divided.
 - Both good and evil take up residence in our heart
 - **Verse 9-12** We praise God and curse our brothers with the same tongue
 - Our tongues reflect our divided heart.
 - We have a conflict in our heart
 - There is something wrong when we praise God, but curse His Creation (in his image) that God finds beautiful

2 steps to be taking:

- 1. We regularly need to as God to change our hearts to be more like Him.**
 - a. When our heart begins to change, the way we communicate with others begins to change
 - b. We need to change our perspective to see others more like He sees all.
 - 2. We need to regularly examine our heart to see if there is anything we need to repent of.**
- Sometimes we are blinded to the damage we cause with our tongues.
 - Our tongues can help others see who Jesus is OR make them want to not know Him at all.
 - What we say and how we say it reveals the state of our heart.