

MAKING

FAITH

WORK

JAMES 2:17

TAMING THE TONGUE

FOUNDING PASTOR KEN WERLEIN
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1. **Intro:** When is a time your tongue got you in trouble?
2. **Read James 3:2.** Why do you think our words are so difficult to control?
3. **Read James 3:3-4.** Words carry so much power in our lives. How have words (those you've said and those spoken to you) played a part in bringing you to where you are today?
4. **Read James 3:5-6.** What is it about our words that give them such potentially destructive power if left untamed? Honestly assess your own life. Where have you sown destruction with your words? Is there anything you need to confess or seek forgiveness for?
5. **Read James 3:7-8.** Ken challenged us to see if we could go a week (or even an hour!) without complaining, boasting, gossiping, tearing somebody down, or making excuses and to only affirm others. Evaluate how you are doing on that challenge. What is going well? Where do you want to focus on growing?
6. **Read James 3:9-12 & Matthew 12:34.** Our words are like a thermometer for the soul. They reveal the state of our heart. Spend time praying together as a group, asking the Lord to work on a specific area of your heart as it relates to your words.

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

1. Have you ever sung a song of praise or told God how much you love Him? Have you ever said anything that hurt someone's feelings or said something unkind about someone? Why do you think we can praise and hurt feelings with the same mouth?
2. James 3:9 reminds us that God made everyone in His own image. What do you think He wants us to do with our words?
3. Matthew 12:34b says, "Your mouths say everything that is in your hearts." If we ask for his help, God will make our hearts more like His. Talk to God right now; you can praise Him or tell Him anything. He loves you!