

James: Faith in Action
Taming the Tongue
James 3:1-12

TALK IT OVER

Passages

"3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water." – James 3:1-12 (ESV)

More of God's truth all week long at the "Renewal Church Denver" app or "St. John's Denver" app in your app store.

Start Talking: Find an announcement or mission for your group. (15 Min)

- February 12: Super Bowl Party - Invite some unchurched friends or friends/neighbors that are disconnected
- Feb. 22: Attend Ash Wednesday as a Life Group
- As you reflect on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?

Head: Start Thinking about the Text. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- The sermon text was James 3:1-12 and can be found on the left-hand side. To keep the study fresh please read Matthew 12:33-37 in your Bible for your life group's main text.
- How do your words reflect your heart?
- Who was Jesus calling out? Why was he doing this?

Heart: Start Sharing how the Text is shaping our beliefs. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- When have you said something you wish you hadn't? What came of that?
- What has been coming out of your mouth more and more lately? What kind of content and conversations have you been listening to? Does something in your heart need to change?

Hands: Start living the Text. Commit to believing or obeying the text this week. (10 Min)

- Self-control can only do so much if you aren't taking care of your heart for God. Spend some time in prayer and in the Word to fill your heart with God's love.
- How can you rely more on the Holy Spirit to speak for you?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. Pick a question. (15 Min)

1. Who is one non-believer or someone without a church home that you need to reach out to this week?
2. What kind of conversations are you having with people you are reaching out to?
3. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
4. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.