



# COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of 9/8/24

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## Opener (10 minutes or less)

If words were like money and you had a limited budget for the day, how would you choose to 'spend' your words?

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## DISCUSSION (50 minutes or less)

*Begin your discussion time in prayer.*

**Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12**

Questions:

1. What stands out to you from this passage and/or Sunday's teaching? What was new, challenging, or encouraging?
2. Why do you think James warns against becoming a teacher? How does this apply to leaders or people with influence today?
3. What are some examples in your life where controlling your speech has been particularly challenging?
4. How do the analogies James uses illustrate the power of our words? Which one is most impactful for you as you think about words?
5. Why do you think James describes the tongue in such strong terms?
6. If controlling our speech is so difficult, how can we seek God's help in using our words wisely?
7. What are some practical steps we can take to be more mindful of the words we use?
8. Can you think of a time when your words helped someone, or when someone else's words helped you?
9. How does the way we speak reflect our relationship with God?
10. What role does accountability play in how we use our words and how can we support each other in our small group or community to speak life-giving and encouraging words rather than harmful ones?

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## PERSONAL (30 minutes or less)

1. Oikos - the 8 to 15 people God supernaturally and strategically places in your life. Any oikos moments you would like to share..
2. What is going on in your life (note prayer requests and praise reports)
3. Pray

### **James 3:1-12**

1 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,<sup>[a]</sup> 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.