

James
Small Group Guide
Week 4: The Tongue

In this series we will walk through the book of James and see how it tells students to prepare for the challenges of life ahead of them. We will look at 12 teachings about wholehearted devotion to Jesus and how we can mature our faith into wholeness.

Our memory verse for this series is James 1:2-3

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

POINT 1: ACCOUNTABLE

- 1) Nothing comes free. There is always a price to be paid.
- 2) Much of James addresses our fruit and focuses on the things we do, but we must also take accountability for the things we say.
- 3) We must take accountability for the things we say and don't say.
- 4) Use your words to help (as God defines it) not hurt.

POINT 2: POWERFUL

- 1) Small beginnings can have big consequences.
- 2) The words we say may seem insignificant, but the impact of those words can carry on for generations.
- 3) The world wants you to conform your words to their lies in an effort to distort the truth. (it's a clump of cells, my pronouns are they/them, this path of destruction is good fun)
- 4) Much of your teenage years are learning that your words and actions can be more powerful than you expect with greater consequences than you anticipate.

POINT 3 INDICATIVE (a gauge)

- 1) Our tongue is an indication of our faith.
- 2) Our tongue is as inconsistent as our faith.
- 3) Taming your tongue won't fix your other problems, but taming your tongue exercises the type of discipline that aligns your life to Christ.

GOSPEL

- 1) Nothing comes free. God didn't make our sin disappear. Jesus paid for it.
- 2) For us to live someone had to die and pay the price.
- 3) The consequence of our sin is powerful and beyond our ability. Thus, Christ lived the life we could not live and died the death we should have died, in our place for our sins.
- 4) Our lives our lived to root out the inconsistencies between the ways we seek to live and the life of Christ. Between blessings and curses.

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Small Group Questions: Below are some topics to guide your discussion and sample questions. You know your students best. What questions can guide them through these ideas to a better understanding of God and a clear next step for themselves?

- 1) *Have y'all ever heard stories of people posting something or saying/doing something and then the consequences being huge?*
- 2) *Why do you think people love to gossip or speak poorly to/about others?*
- 3) *What are some examples of small beginnings having big consequences?*
- 4) *Why do you think the world wants to shape and control the words we use and the things we say?*
- 5) *What are some ways that you see the world trying to control or influence the things we say or how we talk about things?*
- 6) *What can be some of the consequences for misusing our tongue?*
- 7) *What are some practical steps we can take to guard against speaking recklessly?*
- 8) *What role does the tongue play in demonstrating our relationship with God?*
- 9) *What are some examples in your life of wins/losses in this area?*
- 10) *What are some ways in which we have to speak words that may feel like they hurt but are helpful in pointing others to Christ?*
- 11) *In what ways do we use our words to point our friends to Christ? (evangelize, invite, etc)*
- 12) *What role does prayer play in shaping our speech and aligning it with Christ?*