

James – Our Words Matter

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James 3:1-12

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Everyone stumbles in what they say

Part of following Jesus means our communication must change.

Read and discuss James 3:1-2(ESV)

3 *Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For 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.*

*In what context of your life do operate as a teacher? Why are your words spoken so important there?

*How do you tend to stumble in the words that you say? Words about yourself? Words about others?

Our tongue is full of power

The things we say can cause destruction and devastation.

Read and discuss James 3:3-8(ESV)

3 *If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look 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. ⁵So 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! ⁶And 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. ⁷For 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.

*How do you see that your tongue has power over who you are and what you do?

*What does this passage say about the danger of our words?

*What does it say about our ability to control our tongues?

*What destruction have you seen to individuals and communities because of an untamed tongue?

Our words can also come from the fountain of living waters

We can't continue to bless and curse with the same mouth.

Read and discuss James 3:1-2(ESV)

9 *With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.*

- *When have you seen words used to bring life, restoration or healing?
- *What is he saying to you about your words and the power of your tongue?
- *Who is someone that you could build up with your words this week?

Join us as we read through the book of James this fall as a church

[James Reading Plan](#)

October 11th-17th

James 3:1-18

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Fire Water Gold](#) by Eric Holmlund

Song for reflection [You Speak](#) by Audrey Assad

*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.