



CONNECT GROUP GUIDE

“The POWER of the Tongue” Week 7: James 3:1-12

The average person speaks 7,000 words per day according to Google. True or not, every word that comes out of our mouth matters!! In this passage, James discusses the power of the tongue and warns us about the dangers of careless words. Our words are very powerful! In Proverbs 18:21, we are told that our tongue has the power to bring life or death. Studies have shown that most of people's issues have to do with what was said or not said to them as a child. Our words can either build up or tear down, bring healing or harm, or they can bring ministry or misery.

Read passage together

Questions:

1. What stands out to you in the passage?
2. James starts off warning us that teachers will be judged more strictly. The truth is that all of us are teachers or at least should be teaching. Matthew 28:20 tells us that as we make disciples we should be teaching as well. In what ways are you teaching others? (kids, students, employees, etc.)
3. James gives examples of how words can impact our lives in a positive and negative way. In what ways have you used your words in a positive way this week? How have you used your words in a negative way this week?
4. Are there specific areas in your life where you find it hard to control your words?
5. James tells us that no one can tame the tongue. However, in each example that James gives, the example he uses is controlled by something. For example, the bit is controlled by a rider, the rudder is controlled by the captain and taming an animal is done by someone. Why is it impossible to control our tongue?
6. The real issue isn't that we have a problem with our tongue. The real issue is much deeper. Read Matthew 12:33-34. Where is the root of our tongue problem?
7. Jesus is the only one who can change the human heart, however we can choose to change our mind. Repent means to change your mind about something. In what ways do you need to repent (change your mind) when it comes to your words?
8. Read Ephesians 4:29 and discuss ways that you can practice building others up.
 - a. Example:
 - i. Say 3 encouraging words to your spouse (kids) every day.
 - ii. Speak God's words over your family. (who He says they are)

Spend some time in prayer as a group.

Important announcements:

- Recovery Jam is Sept 29th, at 4pm. It will be located at the Toombsboro Park. Please help to get the word out. People may not come to church, but they will come to a party!
- Invite 3 unchurched people to church this week! Live on mission!
- We will have a brief meeting after church on Sept 22nd for all Heart and Soul members.