

NOTES & QUESTIONS

TAME YOUR TONGUE

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JAMES 3:1-12

Your words have _____.

You are _____ your words.

Your _____ shapes your _____.

Your _____ shapes your _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. ICEBREAKER: Have you ever mixed up your words in a funny way? Have you ever heard someone else misspeak in a humorous way?
2. Read James 3:1-12 out loud. Give the group 1-2 minutes in silence so that each person mark up the passage with their own observations. This might include repeated words/ideas, striking details, truths about God, imagery, or questions the passage raises. Start your conversation by having each person share an observation and why they thought it was important. Feel free to discuss any of the observations if they spark conversation.
3. This passage emphasizes the power of the tongue. Why do you think our words have such a big effect? Why do you think we underestimate the power of our words?
4. Find the repeated image of fire in this passage. Why do you think James uses so much fire imagery to describe the tongue?
5. Where have you seen words cause problems in your own life? Think about different arenas of life--work, family, friendships, your inner life.
6. How do you feel when you read verse 8? Why do you think it is so hard to control our tongues?
7. Why are praising God and cursing humans incompatible (James 3:9-12)?
8. What are some ways that speech reveals what is really in your heart?
9. What are some ways to shape your heart so that different types of words more naturally come out of your mouth?

PRAYER PROMPT: Spend some time in confession about how you use your words. Be specific (Do you struggle with angry words? Defensive words? Insulting words? Boastful words? Lying words? etc.). Start with this phrase, "God, I am sorry for using my words in a [BLANK] way..." After each person confesses, have someone else in the group pray for that person to have greater power to tame their tongue and use their words in a God-honoring, people-honoring way.