

JAMES

FAITH WORKS

Faith Works

Discussion Guide

March 3, 2019

James 3:1-12

Questions for Study and Discussion

**** Before you begin, please read James 3:1-12 as a group.**

1. What is some practical advice you've heard (or learned through experience) about wise speech?
2. Why is this topic of "wise speech" and "controlling the tongue" so important?
3. "Every word or conversation is like a match. It can be used to bring great good, or it can be used to do harm." Explain what this statement is saying in your own words. How is this analogy between a match and our words helpful?
4. Look closely at James 3:1-5. How do these verses teach the disproportionate power of words?
5. How have you seen the disproportionate power of words in or around your own life? (Think about words you've said yourself, words you've been told, or words you may have overheard.)
6. Read Proverbs 29:20. How does this verse teach the value of choosing words wisely? What might it look like for you to exercise this discipline of choosing words wisely?
7. From James 3:5-9, create a list of how James describes the tongue and its damaging effects.
8. How can seeing these damaging effects of words create a desire to use words wisely?
9. Read James 3:9-12. How do these verses point to this truth: "Whatever comes out of the mouth ultimately reveals what's in the heart"? (See also Matthew 12:34-35 on this.)
10. Reflect on this statement: "Any true, lasting transformation of our words requires a transformation of our hearts." Do you agree? Why / why not?
11. How does the gospel transform our hearts? What practical differences should this make for our words and conversations?
12. What specific steps of obedience can you take this coming week, to apply what you've learned in James 3:1-12?

Challenge: Memorize Matthew 12:34b-35: "...the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him."