

JAMES - THE ART OF FAITHFUL LIVING

WEEK 6: TAMING THE TONGUE

MIKE DRUMMOND - 10/13/24

GROWING TOGETHER *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE ICE-BREAKERS)*

If you had to give up talking for an entire day, what would be the hardest part?

GROWING WITH GOD *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE QUESTIONS)*

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA: Our words have the power to shape our lives and others—real faith isn't just about what we believe, but how we speak. If we're following Jesus, our speech should reflect His truth, build others up, and steer clear of the damage careless words can do.

Read [Matthew 12:34-35](#), [James 3:1-12](#), & [Ezekial 36:26-27](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

Our words say a lot about what's really going on in our hearts. James challenges us to think about the power of our speech and how it can shape our faith journey. Whether we're lifting others up or bringing them down, our words can either reflect the truth of Jesus or twist it.

- **If our words are a reflection of what's inside us, what might your speech reveal about your current state of faith?**
- **or**
- **How have recent conversations shown growth in your relationship with Jesus?**

Just like a runaway horse or an out-of-control ship can cause chaos, words have incredible power. When we submit our hearts to Christ, our words reflect His grace and truth, creating life-changing moments. Think about how impactful it is when someone speaks encouragement into your life; it can spark hope and shift your perspective. But we must also be mindful that thoughtless words can trigger destruction, as James warns us.

- **How have your words encouraged or impacted someone else's life? Can you share a specific moment when you saw your words make a difference positively or negatively?**
- **How can we intentionally use our words to guide others toward Christ? What is one practical and intentional step you can take this week to encourage someone in your life or share the Gospel through your speech?**

James doesn't hold back when he talks about the power of our words. In verse 6 he uses a vivid image to explain that our tongues can be like a smoldering trash fire—ugly, destructive, and toxic to those around us—when we let anger or bitterness control them. But he also makes it clear in verse 8 that taming our words isn't something we can do on our own. As Pastor Mike said, “without a heart that is submitted to obey and honor God, we will never be able to tame our tongue”.

- **Think of a time when your words got away from you and caused damage. How could you have handled it differently with Christ at the center of your heart?**
- **What steps can you take to invite the Holy Spirit (our Helper, Counselor, & Intercessor) to help you tame your tongue and use your words to speak life and encouragement to others?**

James drives home the point that our words matter, and they reveal the condition of our hearts. He shows how inconsistent it is to praise God one minute and curse others the next. Just like the story Pastor Mike illustrated for us of the little girl in the story who asked her father to carry her, only to mock her brother— James is saying we can't cling to God while tearing others down. Our words should be a reflection of God's love, not something that contradicts it.

- **How can we actively work on using our words to bring life and encouragement to others, rather than destruction?**

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE

Reflect Christ with Your Words (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

Your words should point others to Jesus, not push them away. This week, choose to use your speech to reflect Christ—whether through a kind word, an apology, or stopping gossip. Let your mouth be a source of fresh water, not salt.

Life Group Leader: Encourage your Life Group to find one person they can speak life into this week— whether through encouragement, prayer, or sharing the Gospel. Follow up at the next group meeting to hear how it went and celebrate their steps of faith.

Tame Your Tongue (James 3:7-8)

Think about the power your words have. Are you building others up or tearing them down? This week, pay close attention to what you say—whether in person, online, or behind someone's back. Make it a point to speak life and encouragement, even when it's hard.

Life Group Leader: Lead a discussion about the impact words have in everyday situations, both positive and negative. Encourage your Life Group members to share times they've seen the power of words in action. You can also suggest a challenge where members focus on encouraging one another throughout the week.

Consistent Speech (James 3:9-12)

Are you consistent with your speech—praising God and speaking kindly to others, or do you fall into the trap of negativity or gossip? Take a moment each day to reflect before you speak, especially in moments of frustration. Let your words line up with your walk with Christ.

Life Group Leader: Create space for your Life Group to share areas where they struggle with consistency in their speech. Offer to pray with members specifically about this issue and check in throughout the week to provide accountability.

GROWING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

This week's song list if you'd like to worship with your group

[Praise God](#)

[Three in One](#)

[Shout to the Lord](#)

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