

HOW TO TAME THE TONGUE

James 3:1-12

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE BENEFIT OF TRAINING THE TONGUE
2. THE HARSH REALITY OF AN UNTAMED TONGUE
3. THE HOPE FOR TAMING THE TONGUE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. James makes it very clear that it is impossible for us to tame our tongues on our own. We all stumble in our speech. Here's a "fun" exercise: go around and have each person in the group share an example of a recent misuse of their words.
3. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being the worst, 10 being the best) how would you rate the way you normally use your words? How do you think your family would rate the way you use your words? (**Challenge:** If you have any family in the room and you are brave enough...ask them!)
4. What do you find most difficult about taming your tongue? Was anything from this passage of James or this week's teaching particularly helpful to you?
5. James is very clear that our words have extreme destructive power. He calls the tongue a "fire", "a world of unrighteousness", a "restless evil" and "full of deadly poison". Do you treat your words with as much care as you would something this dangerous? Why or why not?
6. We should never use our words to curse even those we most adamantly disagree with. Every person you've ever met has been made in the image of God. To curse them is to curse the God whose image they are made in. What type of people do tend to you use your words to attack? What might it look like if even our hard words and disagreements were aimed at bringing life to the other person instead of tearing them down?
7. What are some specific things that should change about your speech and social media usage after seeing what James 3:1-12 says?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: If we want to tame our tongue we must first heal our hearts. Only Jesus can bring about this sort of heart-change.