

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

A Tamed Tongue, Not Untamed

APPLY // JAMES 3:1-12

Main Idea: Show your faith by your words. Watch your words—they are powerful, can destroy, and always reveal.

1. Read James 3:1-12.
2. How does passage connect to what James has been saying?
3. James reminds us that our words, though small, are powerful. Do you think we realize how powerful our words are? Why or why not?
4. James shows the danger our words can do. Why are words so dangerous?
5. According to verses 11-12, what do our words reveal about our heart? Is this typically how we think about our words? Why is this truth James explains important to realize?
6. How does thinking about our words cause us to love Jesus even more for the way he used his words, even up to the last ones uttered on the cross?
7. Are there any practical steps you can take to help watch your words?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 3:13-18

Main Idea: Show your faith by your wisdom from above.

1. Read James 3:13-18.
2. What seems to be James' goal in 3:13-18? How does this connect to and flow from what he's already written?
3. According to verse 13, what is the outworking of wisdom? What does James mean by "good conduct"? Why do wisdom, good conduct, and works go together? What does this tell us about the nature of true wisdom?
4. What does it mean to show works "in the meekness of wisdom"? What is the opposite of meek wisdom?
5. In verse 14, what is James referring to when he says "bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts"? When we recognize these, what are we to do? Why is boasting "false to the truth"?
6. James connects bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, and sinful boasting to "wisdom that is...earthly, unspiritual, demonic." How are these things earthly "wisdom" from below? How are these things unspiritual and demonic?
7. What do jealousy and selfish ambition lead to? Why?
8. Discuss the qualities James lists that result from wisdom from above. Why does wisdom from above produce these qualities? How does James' discussion of wisdom here connect back to 1:5?
9. Compare the fruit of earthly wisdom in verse 16 with the fruit of wisdom from above in verse 18.
10. Examine the life (and death and resurrection) of Christ with the traits of wisdom in verses 17-18.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Are there areas you need to repent of misplaced or malicious words? Praise the Lord for where you see your, and each other's, faith at work through words.