



11 -WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

WEEK 6

“Words”

James 3:1-12

WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: James 3:1-12

Secondary text from this week: Proverbs 12:18; 15:4; 18:21, Ephesians 4:29, James 1:21

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To learn to live as people whose hearts and words are tethered to Jesus

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: Share a time when words came out of your mouth that surprised you and those around you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read the primary and secondary texts listed above. What are the common themes that you see emerge from God's Word concerning the power of our words?
2. What is one of the most encouraging things that someone has said to you? The most damaging? How have you seen "words create worlds" in your own life or in someone else's?
3. According to **James 3:1**, why should we be cautious about stepping into the role of a teacher? What kind of power have you seen teachers have over others? In what ways have you been hurt or healed by a teacher's words?
4. According to **James 3:5-6**, why is the tongue such a powerful member of the body? How does its power affect the rest of the body?
5. What percentage of the words you use every day would others consider to be positive? Negative? How has this affected your relationships with others? With Jesus?
6. According to **James 3:8**, how do we tame the tongue? Is it pointless to even try? How does James indirectly give us hope?
7. As the only perfect man, how might following the example of Jesus help us better control our tongues?
8. Read **James 1:21**. James tells us that it's not just uprooting evil from our lives, but it's also allowing God's Word to take root in us. How has or will humbly accepting God's Word planted in you save you?
9. What was a takeaway from Pastor Scott's message this week that we haven't yet discussed?

PRAY

Pray for each other: Pray that Jesus, the perfect man, would give those in your group power over their tongues this week. Ask Him to point out people who need words of encouragement.

Pray on your own: Pray that God would reveal a person whom you have injured through your words.

ACTION STEPS

1. Go to **venturamissionary.com** and take advantage of the daily and weekly resources.
2. Write someone a handwritten note this week either apologizing for using hurtful words or for neglecting to speak words of encouragement. In the note, ask them for a time when you can meet in person or via video screen to continue the conversation.
3. When you feel compelled to use your tongue to tear someone down, “trade up” and use your words to praise God as well as to “build up” that person (Ephesians 4:29). At the end of the day, write down the noticeable changes you witnessed in yourself and the other person(s).

NOTES
