

LifeGroup Meeting

Faith/Works 5
"Tongue Tied"

Get To Know You Question:

When you were young, what was the one thing someone said to you that bothered you? Why did those words bother you?

Let's Dig Deeper

1. Someone read all of **James 3:1-12**. Spend some time and share some key words that spoke out to you while reading. What is it about those words that spoke to you? Try to find something that you didn't see last time you read this.
2. Why do you think James has such a negative view of the tongue?
 - How much power do you think the tongue holds? What image would you use to describe the power of your tongue?
 - How would you feel if your conversations this week were recorded and broadcasted for everyone to hear? What would you want to erase? What would you be proud of?
3. Someone read **James 3:2-4**.
 - How does being able to control the tongue mean we are able to control the whole body? What does one have to do with the other?
 - How does what we say reveal what is in our hearts? (Matthew 7:20).
 - Both the horse and the ship needed someone to direct them. Why do we want to fight God most of the time when he wants to direct and control our lives?
4. Read **James 3:5-6**.
 - In what way does the tongue destroy like fire?
 - If our evil words are from the pits of hell, and our words come from our hearts, what do our evil words say about the condition of our hearts?

- Are there anything we can do to help us become more aware of just how powerful our words can be? What would help in growing that awareness?
- James is strong in his judgment of our words calling them, “world of evil,” a “restless evil,” and full of “deadly poison.” Do you think that judgement is too strong?
- What are your thoughts on the word *Gehenna* (hell) that Scott mentioned in his sermon. Does the visual he painted help us see how impactful our words can be?

5. Someone read **James 3:7-8**.

- What are some examples of an untamed tongue (for example, gossip)? Try to name at least six. (**Proverbs 12:18-19, 13:3, 16:27, 17:7, 18:8, 25:18, Matthew 7:15**).
- James does not say that our tongue will never be tamed, he just said we cannot do it. Why do you think we cannot tame our tongues on our own, and if we cannot do it, who can?

6. Someone read **James 3:9-12**

- Read **Matthew 6:43-45**. What is the connection to **James 3:9-12**. How can we shape our hearts so the words we speak are good, life-giving, and God-honoring?
- How do you react when you know someone who believe in Christ is cursing or using abusive language?
- Why are sins of speech often overlooked as not serious?
- How is our speech influenced by other around us? Do you think of yourself as mostly A) being influenced by the speech of others, or B) influencing how other speak?

7. Who are some people that you can use your speech for good this week as you intentionally seek them out and give them praise.

8. Someone close in prayer!