

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 15 minutes

1. Make a list of the ways our tongues can harm and “curse” others. How have these been used against you?

2. Think about those closest to you (spouse, kids, parents, coworkers, friends). How have you used a “fiery tongue” against them? Find time this week to apologize to them.

3. Do you see yourself in the description of verses 9-10? What might this say about your heart?

4. *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. - Ephesians 4:29*

What steps can you take this week to use your tongue to direct your actions and give grace to others?

ACTIVE FAITH ACTION STEP | WEEK 05

Increase your level of encouragement! In your main conversations, this week, look for ways to encourage and build up the other person.

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Pray seriously for the grace to turn your tongue over to God’s control. Thank Him for providing the power to control what you cannot. Confess and ask forgiveness for ways in which you have verbally abused people who have been made in God’s image.

The Faith that Speaks ***James 3:1-12***

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of February 12, 2017

Getting StartedGroup time - 20 minutes

1. What are your memories, thoughts and/or feelings about the saying, *“Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”*?
2. What are some memorable words that have made a positive impact on your life?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God’s WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read James 3:1-5a

1. Why does James start the section warning that “not many of you should become teachers”? How does this relate to the theme of “the power of words”?
2. In verses 3-4, what imagery does James use and how does each image help you understand the tongue’s potential and power?

PERSONAL: On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate your ability to control your tongue? What effect do you see it having on the rest of your actions?

Read James 2:5b-8

3. How does James explain the destructive power of our tongues? What does it say about its nature and influence?
4. Animals can be tamed because God gave mankind dominion over them at creation. Why can’t human beings tame their own tongues? Where then is our hope?! **Also read: Matthew 19:25-26**

Read James 2:9-12

5. According to verse 9, what two things do we do with our tongues? Why are they contradictory? What three examples does James use to show its absurdity and sinfulness?
6. Our tongues are the overflow of our hearts. What do verses 11-12 say about our hearts?

Read Matthew 12:33-37

7. How does Jesus’ teaching on words connect to last week’s discussion on faith and works?