

STUDY GUIDE

JAMES: Week 7 7.21.13

[set up]

What has been one of the most hurtful things someone has said to you?

What has been one of the most hurtful things you have said to someone else?

What has been one of the most encouraging and uplifting things someone has said to you?

Why are words so powerful? What gives them such great power and influence into our lives?

[digging deeper]

Read (or re-read) the teaching passage from this weekend: James 3:1-12
If you could summarize these 12 verses into one statement, what would it be?

What were all the examples and analogies that James used to describe the tongue?

Verse 8 says that we cannot tame the tongue. So is it possible to control our tongue at all? Are we merely slaves to our tongues and the words and tones that come from it?

What are some specific ways we bless others with our words? What are specific ways we curse others with our words? (Vs. 8-12)

Why is it do disappointing and frustrating to have our tongues be an instrument that can bring blessing and life but also cursing and destruction as well? How can we strive to let our tongues be instruments of blessing and life and “fresh water” in the lives of others?

In the following scenarios give an example of saying/writing something that would be a considered either blessing or cursing in each of the environments:

Environment	Blessing	Cursing
Home		
Friendship		
Neighborhood		
Work place		
Church		
Government		
With people of a different gender		
With people of a different ethnicity		
With people who do not know Jesus?		

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What connection does Jesus make between the tongue and the heart in Matthew 12:33-37 and 15:11? How is that helpful or insightful for us when we consider how we or others use our tongue and words?

God has provided an incredible amount of wisdom and instruction about our tongue and speech. Read through some or all of the following support verses to bring greater insight into the use of our tongues and words. (You can circle verses that really impact you, as well as write them down on notes/card to memorize or type them in your device as a daily alert)

Job 27:4

Ps. 15:1-3

Ps. 19:14

Ps. 34:13

Ps. 39:1

Ps. 52:2-9

Ps. 120:2-3

Ps. 141:3

Prov. 6:16-19

Prov. 10:18-19

Prov. 10:31

Prov. 11:9

Prov. 12:17-25

Prov. 15:1, 4

Prov. 16:27, 28

Prov. 15:28

Prov. 18:21

Prov. 21:23

Prov. 26:27-28

Prov. 31:26

Eccl. 3:7

Isaiah 6:4-7

Rom. 3:13-14

Eph. 4:15, 29

Col. 3:7-8

Col. 4:6

Titus 3:2

1 Peter 3:10

[living it out]

Search:

Who do you need to forgive for something hurtful they said to you, and move forward in freedom?

Who do you need to thank God for, who spoke life, truth, encouragement and healing into your heart?

Who needs to forgive you for something you have said? Can you and will you connect with them to pursue healing?

What commitment can you make in your heart and life about your tongue and words?

Act: Starting this moment, move into the next hours, days and weeks trying to implement the following discipline-

- 1- Pause. (3-5 seconds before speaking)
- 2- Evaluate. (Process the potential short term or long term effects from what you are considering saying. Will they bless and build up or curse and tear down?)
- 3- Choose (to speak that which brings life, truth, edification, help and healing)



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Reflect & Pray: using your computer, tablet, phone, etc... watch and/or listen to the song “Words” by the band Hawk Nelson. As you do, quietly reflect on the song’s lyrics below. Let this exercise be a kick off to your closing prayer time.

Pray through whatever the Lord has laid on your heart through this time of study and this song. You can also add or continue in the prayer that was encouraged from this last weekend: “Lord, make my tongue be an instrument of blessing not cursing “

Lyrics:

They’ve made me feel like a prisoner
They’ve made me feel set free
They’ve made me feel like a criminal
Made me feel like a king
They’ve lifted my heart to places I’ve never been
They’ve dragged me down back to where I began

Words can build you up
Words can break you down
Start a fire in your heart
Or put it out
Let my words be life
Let my words be truth
I don’t want to say a word
Unless it points the world back to You
You can heal the heartache
Speak over the fear
God, your voice is the only thing we need to hear Words can build us up
Words can break us down
Start a fire in our hearts
Or put it out
Let my words be life
Let my words be truth
I don’t want to say a word
Unless it points the world back to You
Let the words I say
Be the sound of Your grace
I don’t want to say a word
Unless it points the world back to You

I want to speak Your love
Not just another noise
I want to be Your life
I want to be Your voice