



Week 6 Discussion Guide

Main Passage: James 3:1-12 ESV

Opening

- Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** Our words aren't random—they're revealing. What we say (and how we say it) exposes what's happening beneath the surface of our hearts.
 - **Leader note:** Today's conversation is going to hit close to home. James doesn't let us stay theoretical—he presses into how our words reveal what's actually going on in our hearts. This is less about behavior modification and more about transformation. Create space for honesty, not perfection.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- Can you remember the nicest thing anyone has ever said to you/about you?
- Reflect on the past week. Can you recall a conversation where you felt either exceptionally proud or deeply remorseful for your words?

DISCOVER

Read Together: James 3:1-12

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS:

- What stands out to you most in this passage? Why?

DIG DEEPER:

- Why do you think James gives a warning to teachers in verse 1?
 - Does this only apply to pastors or do you think this is important for anyone who teaches the Bible (small group leaders, podcasters, influencers, etc...)
- What comes to mind when you read verses 8-12?
 - Where do you see inconsistency in your own speech?
- James connects our words to something deeper than just self-control. What do your words tend to reveal about your heart when you're...
 - Stressed/ Tired?
 - Frustrated?
 - Around certain people?
- Why is controlling our words so difficult, even when we know better?
- Verse 8 is clear that we can't control the tongue on our own, it's a Gospel issue:
 - How does this change how we approach the issue?
 - How does abiding in Christ change the way we speak over time?

APPLY

- What is one specific pattern in your speech you need to surrender to God? (Ex. Sarcasm, gossip, complaining, harshness, etc...)
- Where can you intentionally use your words to build up and encourage instead of tear down and destroy this week? Who in your life need encouragement, truth, or affirmation from you right now?

GROUP PRAYER***Pray Together as a Group*****Pray:**

- **Heart Transformation:** That God wouldn't just change our words, but our hearts also
- **Self-Control:** Especially in moments of stress, pressure, or tension.
- **Life-Giving Speech:** That your words would reflect Jesus this week.

CLOSING

- Encourage everyone to continue reading James in their free time. Next week's passage is James 3:13-18