

TAMING YOUR TONGUE
JAMES 3:1-12

Chi Alpha
Lifegroup Guide
James

PRE LG TEXT
MESSAGE QUESTIONS

How do you like to be spoken to? (Kindly, respectfully, harshly, bluntly, etc.)

How do you often like to speak to others and yourself? (Kindly, respectfully, harshly, bluntly, etc.)

This is what we'll be discussing at Lifegroup tonight as we continue our study on the book of James.

SCRIPTURE
MEMORIZATION

James 3:9-10

10N1 FOLLOW UP

Where in my speech do I need to change to look more like Christ? Do I speak quickly? Or do I use wisdom in speech?

INTRODUCTION

- Do you think it is important to be mindful of your speech on an everyday basis?
- On a scale of 1-10, how much power do you think your speech has over you and others?

James 3:1-6

- Do you have areas in your life where you allow your tongue to get out of hand and cause you not to sound like Jesus? (Ex: driving and having road rage, gossiping about others, complaining, etc.)
- In verses 3-6, we see that James talks about how tiny things can alter the course of large objects. (Ex: tiny rudder changes a sailboat, a bit in the mouth of a horse changes the direction of a large horse, forest fires are started with a small flame, etc.)
- What do you think about these scriptures and the correlation to our tongue being tiny and causing large changes in our behavior and attitudes? Do you agree? Disagree? Why/Why not?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Although our tongues are tiny, they are powerful in our physical and emotional lives. They can cause pain, joy, laughter, bring the good news of the Gospel, etc. Proverbs 18:21 says, "Life and death are in the power of the tongue." Matthew 12:36 says that, "On the day of judgement people will give account of every careless word they speak." Clearly, our words are of extreme importance to God, so we should take great care to make sure that our words are pleasing to God.*

James 3:7-8

- What small actions can I take to "tame my tongue" and for my speech to reflect more of Christ?
- Here James says that no human can tame their tongue. If we can't tame our tongue, then what do we need to do? (Give the Lord control of our words. Be slow to speak. Speak out of love. Ask the Lord for self-control and wisdom when speaking.)

James 3:9-12

- How do you feel when you read these verses?
- Do you feel as though you try to praise the Lord and also curse others with the same tongue? Are you aware when you do something like this?
- How do you think Christ feels when we are gossiping about others, cursing at others out of anger, complaining, but then turn around and sing worship or try to share the Gospel?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *There is more power in our tongue and in our words than we can sometimes realize. The way that we speak is one of the main ways that non-Christians can identify Christians. If we are gossiping about others, constantly complaining, telling inappropriate jokes, then we look like the world. If we are speaking words of love, speaking affirmations over others, offering encouragement, then we look different. We look like Christ. Let us strive to look like Christ!*

APPLICATION

- What parts of my speech do I need to change to be more like Jesus? (gossiping, lying, complaining, crude or mean jokes, etc.)
- How do we practically do this in our everyday lives?

