

Small But Deadly
James 3_1-12

The Passage:

A Special Note to Teachers:

Observations and Life Lessons:

1. Be Slow to Criticize, Because _____

2. Even _____ Have _____

3. Wise People Respect and Guard the _____

4. The Only Solution to My Tongue Problem _____

5 Quick Tips for Taming the Tongue

- ❖ _____ you need help
- ❖ Pray about it _____
- ❖ Don't _____
- ❖ Confess to God and _____
- ❖ _____ of friends and family

Small Group Discussion Guide

- ❖ What instructions or corrections do you remember receiving from your parents about your speech?
- ❖ Why do you think what we say, how we say it, and when we say it is so important?
- ❖ Can you recall a story from your own life where the “tongue set a forest ablaze”?
- ❖ What can you do today to be better at “taming your tongue”?
- ❖ As you think back on the sermon, was there a principle or idea that you found clarifying, challenging or confusing?
- ❖ James uses a series of pictures to describe the tongue. Which ones are particularly significant to you?
- ❖ What do you learn about someone by listening to the way he or she speaks? What kind of speech would cause you to question whether someone truly was a Christian?
- ❖ In my experience, sins of speech are usually considered “little sins” by Christians, much less serious than “important sins” of one kind or another. I have often observed that people who are very aware of the sins of others are often blind to their own sins with their tongues. Do you think my observation is true? How do you think James would view these “little sins”?
- ❖ Sadly, sharing prayer requests can become sanctified gossip sessions. What guidelines can your group set to make sure that this doesn't happen?
- ❖ This week we heard about the power and influence our words can have for the good or the bad. Fortunately for us, God has given us countless references throughout the bible to help us understand how to use our words to be productive instead of destructive. Read each of the references in proverbs below and jot down what each one says about the power of our words.
Proverbs 10:19; Proverbs 11:12; Proverbs 12:6; Proverbs 12:18
Proverbs 12:19; Proverbs 12:25; Proverbs 15:1; Proverbs 15:2
Proverbs 15:23; Proverbs 15:26; Proverbs 16:24; Proverbs 17:4
Proverbs 17:5; Proverbs 18:4; Proverbs 18:21; Proverbs 21:6
Proverbs 22:10; Proverbs 23:9; Proverbs 26:20; Proverbs 26:28
- ❖ How does social media accelerate the damage the tongue can do?