

TAMING THE TONGUE

James 3:1-12

CURT DE GRAAFF

December 10, 2023

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free **Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary**, available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an **overview video of the Book of James**, available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Have you ever heard the phrase, “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” Do you think that statement is true? Why or why not?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week’s passage together. In his message, **Pastor Curt gave us three insights on the tongue from James chapter 3.**

How Can You Know Your Faith Is Real?

1. Control of the tongue is a mark of Christian maturity (James 3:1-5a)

- Is it easy or difficult for you personally to control your tongue? Do you have some recent examples of how your words, or someone else’s words, have hurt deeply?
- When it comes to our speech, why do you think we’re often hardest on those closest to us, like our family, friends, and coworkers? Do you need to ask forgiveness from someone this week?
- James says the tongue is like a rudder that directs a large ship. Where is your tongue-rudder leading you?

2. Destruction with the tongue is a mark of satanic iniquity (James 3:5b-8)

- Curt listed a few of the destructive ways we might use our words. Which of these hit home to you?
 - Complaining, murmuring, criticizing, quarreling, gossiping, etc.
- Humans spend an average of one-fifth of our lives talking. How might that change if we took Proverbs 10:19 and 27:2 to heart?
- James says the tongue is like a flame. Does your tongue warm those around you or does it burn them?

3. Duplicity (hypocrisy) with the tongue is a mark of Christian carnality. (James 3:9-12)

- Curt said, “In the final judgment, your eternal destiny will be determined by your words.” Have you ever considered that God will reward you in eternity based on the way you used your words in life? See Matthew 12:36-37 for more.
- Read Romans 10:9-10. When it comes to your salvation, are your heart and mouth on the same page? Or are you saying one thing with your words without believing it in your heart?
- James says the tongue is like a natural water spring and a fruit tree. What does the fruit of your life reveal about the root of your life?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you and the people in your group will be kind, calm, and wise with your words this week!

