

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)

- Do you tend to use a lot of words throughout the day, or do you think you use less words than the average person? FYI, women use an average of 20,000 words a day, compared to 7,000 for men!
- Can you think of a time when your words got you into trouble? Or a time when you should have spoken, but didn't? What might you learn from those moments?

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 Pat reminded us of the power of our words, giving us three examples of how to use our words intentionally.**

Context:

- Flip through the book of James and highlight the mention of words, the tongue, or communication. Can you think of other places in Scripture that teach us about how to use our words? Briefly summarize what you've learned from this quick overview.

When you speak to others, determine before God to speak words of:

1. **Truth in love (Ephesians 4:15 and Proverbs 12:19)**
 - Are you someone who speaks the truth, or speaks love, or both? Why is it important that you have both "truth" AND "love"? What would be the problem if you only had one of the two?
 - Think of a conversation you need to have this upcoming week with a child, a family member, a co-worker, or a client - how will you speak words of truth AND love?
2. **Encouragement (Colossians 3:21 and Proverbs 15:23)**
 - Can you think of a time when someone spoke a word to you that was especially discouraging? Maybe a parent, a coach, or a boss? How did you respond to that word? Does it still sting?
 - What about a time when you got an encouraging word? How has that impacted you?
3. **Accuracy (James 5:12)**
 - Why do you think people in a court of law are told to "swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." Doesn't that seem like a redundant phrase?
 - Are there areas in your life where you tend to tell half-truths, white lies, or exaggerations? What do you think is at the heart of that kind of speech in your life? What can you do to change?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your speech will be a good testimony to those around you this week.

