

JAMES

Wisdom for the Everyday Stuff of Life

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 7: WISDOM FOR YOUR WORDS

DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: James 3:1-12; Matthew 12:33-37; Proverbs 10:19

QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?

NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon, consider these questions together:

1. In light of your reading, what questions come to mind and what key issues are being surfaced that you need to process with your DNA group?
2. In what ways can you affirm with James that our tongues have great power to build up or tear down?
3. In what situations or relationships do you need God to change your heart so that what comes out of your mouth gives life and encouragement instead of death and

destruction?

4. How is Jesus a better word for you in this situation or relationship?

During this time, let each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to turn to Jesus as the better word for them in a situation or relationship. For instance, Jesus spoke forgiveness over you at the cross so you can forgive others. Or, Jesus is building you up - speaking a better word than you deserve before God the Father right now, so you can speak better words about others as well. In this case, the call to repent means acknowledging that our words reveal sin in our hearts. That sin is connected to a wrong view of God and what he has done for us in Jesus (i.e. I am believing that God is condemning or unforgiving and therefore Jesus' work does not actually forgive me or give me life). Confess the sin and the wrong believe beneath the sin. This might sound like: *"God I have continued to speak evil of my brother because I keep forgetting and failing to believe that you have forgiven me and spoken a better word over me in Jesus. The is sin and I ask you to forgive me and change my heart. Give me a heart of forgiveness and love and help me to speak different words as a result."*

QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?

ACT

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. What kinds of words is the Spirit leading you to speak into a situation or relationship (forgiveness, encouragement, exhortation, etc...)?
2. What aspect of Jesus being God's better word for you and spoken over you do you need to receive and believe today?
3. What will you do now as a result of God's work in your heart?
4. How do you want God to work in you and through you to bring life-giving words to others as a result of our time together today?

QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?