

Show Your Faith Through Your Words

“Living Faith”

James 3:1-12

Discussion Questions

1. Read James 3:1-12. The main idea of this passage is: “The mature believer has power over the tongue.” Why is the tongue (i.e. speech) a good indicator of spiritual maturity?
2. Read verse 1. What are some unhealthy reasons why someone might want to aspire to a position of spiritual leadership in the church? What are some biblical reasons?
3. The tongue, as small as it is, has the incredible ability to direct or influence the course of action (like a bit or rudder). Give some specific examples of how our speech can influence others’ lives.
4. The tongue, as harmless as it may seem, has the serious potential to destroy (like a small spark). Give some examples of the kinds of speech that can be destructive.
5. The tongue, as ordinary as it appears, has the graceful power to delight. Because of the fall of man, we no longer have dominion over ourselves. How, then, is it ever possible for a believer to get control over his/her own tongue and use it “delightfully”?
6. Read the following poem together as a group.

Only a Word

Only a word of anger, but it wounded one sensitive heart.
Only a word of sharp reproach, but it made the teardrops start.

Only a hasty, thoughtless word, sarcastic and unkind.
But it darkened the day before so bright, and left a sting behind.

Only a word of kindness, but it lightened one heart of its grief.
Only a word of sympathy, but it brought one soul relief.

Only a word of gentle cheer, but it flooded with radiant light,
The pathway that seemed so dark before, and it made the day more bright.

7. What areas of speech would you personally like to work on? Close your time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to help you take control of your tongue.