



Week 5 Overview

In Our Talk James 3:1–12

Discussion on James

Rather than just being hearers of the Word (or talkers of the Word), we want to be doers of the Word. Instead of filling your time talking about James, use half of your time in reflection to *consider how your words from the last week reveal your faith.*

Think about how you can create an environment where this exercise is comfortable and clear for people to do on their own.

Breakout and Application

Use breakout as an opportunity to follow up with the question, *"How do your words from this last week reveal your faith?"*

Ask the group to share specific examples from this week:

What's one example from this week where your words were evidence of good fruit and living out your faith?

What's one example from this week where your words were evidence of bad fruit and failing to live out your faith?

Read

Get a running start by reading James 2:14–26 as a group.

James calls us to evaluate our faith as we consider our *works* (2:14–26) and *words* (3:1–12). Read James 3:1–12 as a group.

"What stands out in this passage? What are your observations?"

Talk

Like last week, do not let this become a Bible study that looks at this passage in the context of James and fails to apply it today... or a cultural analysis that focuses on what's happening around us and doesn't evaluate ourselves. Be careful you don't end up doing exactly what the text says not to do—*merely talking about faith and not living out your faith and thus becoming hearers only and not doers of the Word.*

Think

The Christian life is about coming to Christ and *progressively growing, changing and persevering* to become more like Christ.

Ask the group to take 5 minutes to reflect on their works and words from this week. Here the goal is to carve out time to evaluate yourself and *consider how your works and words reveal your faith.* Change happens by the Spirit of God and Word of God, but rarely do we allow space for God to work in our lives.

"It's impossible to change if we don't consider our works and words. What was it like to think about your actions and speech from this week and what does this reveal about your faith?"

"What does this reflection and passage teach you about yourself?"