

Intro: Share a weakness in your life that you have developed into a strength. What all did you have to do in order to develop it into a strong point?

Read James 3:1-12

- 1) Review this week's sermon. What were the main points? What stuck out to you?
- 2) Why do you think that James starts a discussion about "taming the tongue" by talking about teachers?
- 3) Why is a stricter judgment placed upon teachers? Is it because they are biased, over-educated, irrelevant or what?
- 4) What do the three illustrations (horse's bit, ship's rudder, fire's spark) each reveal about the tongue's power?
- 5) In your experience, how difficult is it to take back things that you say? Can you think of words that have been said to you that have been hard to get over even though the person apologized?
- 6) From verses 10-12, how is it possible to both praise God and curse other people? What does this say about the dangers of the tongue? What does it say about human nature?
- 7) Why is deciding to just "never speak up" not a real option when considering taming your tongue? What will be lost if you were to no longer speak into people's lives?
- 8) Can you think of places, situations, environments, people you are around where it is more natural for you to say whatever comes to mind with little regard for the damage it might do?
- 9) What have you found helpful in controlling your tongue? In changing the source of its spring (v.11)?

Prayer: Pray and ask God to give us each the wisdom to use the gift of our words to glorify Him by speaking words of hope and life into the lives of others.

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