

James: More than Words

A study for Community Groups to use the week of September 7th

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Week Four: James 3:1-12

Overview

Everyone talks about faith, but what does real faith actually look like? In a world full of noise, opinions, and empty promises, the book of James cuts through the fluff with a bold message: faith isn't just something you say, it's something you live. This series explores how belief in Jesus should shape everyday life, from how we speak, to how we suffer, how we treat others, and how we make decisions. More Than Words is a practical walk through the book of James. It's a call to a faith that shows up, not just on Sundays, but in the moments that matter most.

Passage: James 3:1-12. "One of the most important aspects of our works, which James had been discussing, is our words. We conduct much of our work with words. We also may express partiality with our words. James next gave his readers directions concerning their words to help them understand and apply God's will to this area of their lives." - *Constable Notes*

Questions

*The questions below are designed to supplement the standard questions that we provide in our Group Discussion Guide; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this reveal about God? About People? About the Life He has planned for us?*

1. As we think about the way our world views the power of words, what messages do we hear about their power or lack thereof? In what ways is that similar or different from what James has to say about them here?
2. What are some of the main takeaways James is trying to get across as he mentions the examples of a ship, a horse, and a fire? What do they have in common? What subtle difference do each emphasize?
3. James seems to see the tongue's production as reflective of the state of our hearts (v.9-12). With that in mind, what happens if we only address our speech but fail to consider the source and work on the state of our hearts? What could that look like to address the state of your heart?
4. What practical solutions does James offer to us as we seek to 'tame the tongue'? What would that look like for you this week?