



CONVERSATION STARTER

What is one thing you've been "intending" to do for a while but your actions would seem to contradict your intentions? Why is that the case?

DEEPER

NOTE: This would be a good time to reflect on how group members are doing in their memorization of James 1 if you've accepted the challenge together.

Read James 3:1-12

1. If words "steer" our lives (like a rudder or steering wheel), how have your words shaped your direction recently—positively or negatively?
2. **Theological connection:** How does the personal inability of human beings to tame their tongues connect to the doctrine of total depravity? You may want to revisit the term for those who are unfamiliar with its meaning.
3. Why is controlling our words so difficult? What does this reveal about the deeper issue within us? According to this passage, what is the true solution—and how does it go beyond simply trying harder to manage what we say?
4. In what ways have you experienced the "fire" of someone else's words? How did you feel? How did you respond?
5. Our words of cursing should be exchanged with words of blessing. What person or people in your life would benefit from a word of blessing from you right now? What might you say to encourage them in whatever it is they're going through?
6. What word of blessing do you need to be reminded of from God's Word right now in the things you are going through? How can your group members be praying for you personally right now?

7. What else from the sermon lingered with you this week? What questions or thoughts did it stir up?

NOTES

GROUP PRAYER

Close in prayer by confessing to God the ways your words have recently caused harm. Ask for his forgiveness, and thank Jesus for bearing the full penalty for every sinful word you've spoken. Then ask the Holy Spirit to make you aware of opportunities to speak life and encouragement, and to bring to mind specific people who may need it most. Commit to reaching out to them this week—through a call or text—to intentionally lift their spirit.