



Sermon Discussion Guide

June 1, 2025 | James 3:1-12 | Brad

SUMMARY

Big Idea: Put Your Faith to Work by Taming Your Tongue

Last week, James taught us that faith without works is dead. Conversely, living faith, is faith that works. Here, in chapter 3, James applies that truth the importance of our tongues, our words. In verses 1-12, James gives several reasons why we must tame our tongues. Chief among those is the fact that our words reveal who we truly are and what is truly in our hearts. Notably, James desires that we understand what seems like a paradox: We must tame our tongues + taming the tongue is humanly impossible. This is of crucial importance for the Christian because it teaches us how great our need is for His transforming grace to work in us that which is pleasing in His sight. What better way to prove that God has saved you and His spirit resides in you, than by taming the tongue?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Intro

1. What sayings, figures of speech, or particular pronunciation of words have you come across that are pretty unique to a particular region or area (like Hoschton, or Breneau)?

READ James 3:1-5a (remember the Big Idea above)

2. If teachers will be judged, with *greater* strictness, what is the implication for everyone else? (refer to Matthew 12:36-37).
 - a. How does this relate to Christians having a faith that works?
3. What do verse 2-5a teach us about the tongue?
 - a. Have you ever thought of your tongue as having that kind of power and influence?
 - b. How does this inform how you think about your life and your sanctification?

READ James 3:5b-12

4. What stands out to you in verses 5b-6?
 - a. How do these verses teach us about the great need ot tame our tongue?
5. v7-8. Is it a contradiction or cruel for God through James to give us a command (tame the tongue), while simultaneously telling us that this is something we cannot do?
 - a. What makes this reality unique to Christianity, compared to all other religions (every other religion being works-based)?
 - b. How does this highlight the fact that we live day by day at the intersection of God's sovereignty and human responsibility?
6. What do verses 11-12 teach us about the truth of our tongue problems? Why is this reality both convicting, and also, evidence of God's kindness to us?
7. What will you do this week to tame your tongue? How can this group encourage you and hold you accountable?