

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer

2. Welcome any newcomers

3. Read James 3:1-12 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, James 3:1-12

May 18, 2014

Title: Taming the Tongue

Last week you had to hold your breath until you turned blue and thought you were going to die. This week bite your tongue. You've heard someone say, I was so angry I had to bite my tongue to keep from.... So go ahead and place your tongue between your front teeth and carefully bite down just firm enough to hold your tongue in place, but not hurt it. Now turn to someone near you and introduce yourself and try to have a conversation...about the lesson, perhaps. It doesn't work, does it? Shows you how important the tongue is to say anything at all. Now loosen your bite, let go of your tongue as we study James 3:1-12, and learn how powerful and wild an unbridled tongue can be, so powerful no man can tame it, James said.

Question: James warns against many of his fellow Christians becoming teachers of the Word of God because they would receive a stricter judgement. What do you suppose he means by that? What sort of judgement and why stricter for teachers?

Question: We all stumble, he says. What does he mean by stumble? Stumble in what we say? Stumble in living the Christian life?

Question: Read verse 2. James includes himself by saying "We all stumble in many ways." Is it possible that there would be a person who does not stumble in what he says? Would that person be only Christ Himself?

Question: If James himself is a stumbler, does it make sense that we should put our trust in a teacher? If not a teacher, whom then should we follow?

Question: Reading through verse 8, I get the feeling I should bite my tongue again, maybe even bite it off. If no one can tame the tongue, if it is a restless evil

and if it is full of poison, what good is it? What determines what the tongue speaks? Where does the poison come from?

Question: Verses 9 through 12 indicate that the tongue can bless as well as curse, and the tongue that does both reveals the hypocrisy of a double-minded person. How do you suppose the tongue can be bridled or tamed so that it only blesses and doesn't curse?

Question: We communicate with more than just the tongue in today's world. We have social media—Facebook, Twitter, and others—that are our tongues, so to speak. How are these 'technology tongues' more powerful than your own tongue, or are they? Should they be used for blessing only, or can they?