

8/12/18 | James 3: Control the Tongue

"The tongue has the power of life and death."

—Proverbs 18:21a | NIV



DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever been insulted or called a rude name? What happened? How did it make you feel?
2. Would it have been easier to have been slapped in the face? Why do you think words are so powerful?
3. Consider this old adage. What does it mean? Is it true? What does it have to do with controlling the tongue?

Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me.

4. What stuck out to you from James 3? What stuck out to you from the sermon?
5. Which of the tongue traps from the sermon (gossip, slander, flatter, lies, arguing, nagging, complaining, or mockery) traps your tongue the most? Why do you think that is?
6. Which trap bothers you the most when you hear others use it? Why?

Tongue's Power

7. Read Isaiah 6:1-7. How did Isaiah respond to seeing God in His glory? Why do you think that was? How might you respond?
8. How do Ephesians 4:29 and Philippians 4:8-9 relate to controlling the tongue?
9. Read Matthew 15:11. What does this verse mean? How can "what comes out of our mouths" make us unclean?

10. Read Proverbs 12:18-19 and 15:1-4. What power does your tongue have?
11. Read Psalm 139:4. How is this verse encouraging? How does it help remind you to watch the words you say?
12. What reason does Proverbs 17:28 give for controlling the tongue?
13. What have you learned from studying the tongue this week? Do you think it is most important to say nothing, to say positive things, or to say true things? How?

TAKE AWAY: Perform a word assessment.