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JAMES 3:3-12
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If you ask most teenagers about what hurts the most in their relationships, they would probably tell you—when someone makes fun of me, when someone mocks me, when someone makes me feel stupid, when someone yells at me, when someone is mean or sarcastic to me, when someone is angry with me, when someone gossips about me, or when someone reveals my secrets. What "slender portion of flesh" (Calvin) is involved in all these hurtful scenarios? How does James describe the evils of the human tongue in James 3:2-12?

Have you ever been confronted by a Christian about your speech? Describe this confrontation. Have you ever confronted another Christian about their speech? Describe this confrontation.

🗱 What is at stake when a Christian's tongue is out of control? Circle the following possibilities: the unity or health of an entire community of believers (church or family), the testimony of believers, the testimony of Christ.

Q Describe how you have seen the tongue destroy a relationship or a testimony.

How is a tongue like a horse's bit or a ship's rudder (3:2-5)? Is it difficult to get a bit in a horse's mouth? How difficult is it to control your own tongue?

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There is an old adage: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." In your own experience is this true? According to the Bible, is this true? Look at the following Biblical stories or exhortations to see how words hurt people in relationships:

🖋 Father to Child: Eph. 6:4, Col. 3:21

Brother to Brother: Gen. 21:8-10

附 Woman to Woman: Phil. 2:2-3

Friend to Friend: Pr. 17:9



Neighbor to Neighbor: Pr. 11:9

🖋 Religious to Son of God: Matt. 27:39-44

False Teachers to Flock: 2 Peter 2:10-16

5 Why is it especially horrible to curse or verbally abuse another person (James 3:9)?

6 Diagnosing your own evil speech is important, but what are the next steps God wants you to take with your tongue? Consider Christ: Isaiah 53:7-9. Walk through Ephesians 4:29-32. Pursue Confession: 1John 1:9, James 5:16.

U	What are right speech patterns the Bible commends? Take time to think through how you are doing when it comes to praising God, praying, giving public testimony, edifying others, and speaking the truth in love.	PRAYER REQUESTS
8	If your tongue were to be judged today, would you stand the test of faith? James indicates that it is impossible to curse man and praise God in the same breath (James 3:8-12).	
	♥ If you habitually speak evil, is it right for your to question your salvation?	
9	James said it isn't possible for any human to attain perfection in this life, but that we should seek it. How, then, can we control our tongues and become mature? (Matt. 19:25-26, James 1:5-8)	