

James 3:2-12

31 May 2020

ICE BREAKER: Describe a favorite word or phrase your parents often said to you.

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verse 2) James says we all make mistakes; we all sin. We all get ourselves in trouble. ‘We all **stumble in many ways.**’ James then explains the trouble, that a person gets himself into, usually begins ‘**in what he says**’.

1. What usually gets you into **trouble**, what you **do** or what you **say**? Explain.

(Read verses 3-4) Although small in size compared to other parts of the body, the **tongue influences** and **effects** the majority of our **life experiences**. A small bit in the mouth of a horse can direct this majestic 1,000 pound muscular animal to turn in any direction. A small rudder can turn a 10,000 ton ship in open sea.

Similarly, though small in size, the tongue can be a source of wisdom or inspiration that can **change the direction** of our **lives** or change the way we **see our circumstances**, even the way we see the world.

2. Describe **something you said** that **sparked change** in another persons’ life, or describe **something someone said to you** that inspired change in you.

(Read verses 5-6) Though small, the **tongue** can **cause** great **damage** and **destruction**. A small spark can set a forest of a thousand acres on fire, scorching and killing everything in its path.

Similarly, the tongue can unleash destruction and pain in the lives of others, even unto those we love the most. Proverbs 18:21 declares, ‘The **tongue** has the **power of life and death.**’

3. Describe **something you said** that **caused pain or destruction** in another persons’ life, or describe **something someone said to you** that inflicted pain or destruction in your life.

(Read verses 7-12 & Galatians 5:22) Although man has been able to tame every animal on earth, James states ‘**no man can tame the tongue**’. No man, **in his own power**, can control this ‘restless evil, full of deadly poison.’ Man cannot restrain the **destruction** or **hypocrisy** of his own tongue.

The tongue is the one wild beast that refuses to be tamed by a human. Only God’s Holy Spirit can tame the tongue. **Self-control** of the tongue will never be achieved by human will power, but only received as a **gift** of Holy Spirit power. Therefore, **taking self-control** of your tongue means **surrendering control** of your life **to the Holy Spirit**.

4. What is an **area** or **struggle** in your life God has been calling you to **surrender to His control**?

Cut along Dotted Line & use Notes as Book Marker

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
