



Discussion Guide | Week 2: Untamed Tongue | May 10, 2020

OVERVIEW The things that we speak aren't so much a word problem but rather a heart problem. Jesus calls us to look beyond the symptoms of our words in order to focus on the source that causes our words to dishonor him.

KEY VERSES James 3:2-12 (NLT), Luke 6:45 (NLT), James 4:7-10 (NLT)

BIG IDEA An untamed tongue is a heart problem.

REMEMBER Did it shock you to hear that 70% of Americans hate their jobs? They don't just dislike their jobs – they literally despise having to go to work! Why is that such a common problem in our culture? What makes so many of our workplaces really flammable environments for conversation? Explain.

REFLECT Jesus said that whatever we speak from our mouths is an overflow from our hearts (Luke 6:45). Our tongues aren't just untamable (James 3:7)... they're poisonous (James 3:8). What we say has the potential to cause long-term damage. Why do you think James tackles this problem in such a head-on way? If his goal is to help the Church live wholeheartedly devoted to Jesus, why does he spend a significant chunk of chapters 1 & 3 of his letter talking about the tongue? Explain.

RESPOND When it comes to our tongues, we're either using them constructively or destructively – to build others up or tear others down. But as human beings, we can easily confuse "speaking the truth in love" with speaking in a way that's poisonous (James 3:8) or flammable (James 3:5-6). What is it that causes this disconnect? Share an example from your own life where you've had to deal with this.

REAL LIFE In James 4, he challenges all of us as disciples in regard to our tongues. Sometimes it's to humble ourselves by resisting the temptation that Satan throws our way (v. 7). Other times it's to draw near to God so that he'll draw near to us (v. 8). How do you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to James's challenge? Share.

PRAYER TIME As you close your time together, have everyone share one way that folks can be praying for them this week. Then spend a few minutes having each person pray for someone else in the group until everyone's requests have been lifted up.

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NOTES

- An untamed tongue isn't a Christian problem. It's a human problem!
 - Our tongues are small, yet they control our whole lives.
 - Your tongue is either being used destructively or constructively.
- People & situations are flammable. It doesn't take much to start a wildfire.
 - Our tongues aren't just untamable. They're poisonous!
 - Our tongues aren't just out of control. They can be deadly!
- Words that build up don't come from a heart that tears down.
 - However you treat people, it's as if you're treating God the same way.
 - The idea that you can curse people & bless God just doesn't fly.
- We don't have spiritual conversations & unspiritual conversations.
 - There's not one type of convo you have Sunday & another the other days.
 - There's not one type of convo you have with some people & another with others.
 - Wherever your heart is, that's the type of convos you're going to have.
- We need to humble ourselves before God.
 - We need to resist the devil & watch him flee from us.
 - We need to draw near to God & watch him draw near to us.
 - We need to humble ourselves & watch God lift us up in honor.

QUOTES

"Every conversation you have is a spiritual conversation. There's no such thing as an unspiritual conversation."
– Pastor Brad

"Are you blessing people with your words, or burning with them? You do one or the other."

"If you have a heart problem, you'll have a tongue problem as well."

LUNCH CHAT

ASK YOUR KIDS OR STUDENTS THESE 3 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ONLINE MESSAGE TODAY DURING LUNCH!

1) Would you rather breath fire, or turn things to ice?
2) Our words either burn or they bless. Do you think your words this week burned or blessed others?
3) Be honest as a family this week about words you are using, and words used against you. Don't let it just sit in your heart if someone hurt you. Tell them in love that it hurt, and if you hurt make it right.