

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some unforgettable words that have been said to you, either good or bad?
2. James says that the person who can control their words is perfect, mature. Since we are not perfect, how can we control what we say?
3. How are our words like a horse's bit, or a ship's rudder?
4. How can our words cause as much destruction spiritually as a forest fire does physically?
5. Read Romans 6:11-14. What does this passage teach about controlling the evil weapon of uncontrolled words?
6. Why can't man tame his own tongue? (See Genesis 6:5, Galatians 5:16-17, James 3:8)
7. How do you need to grow in this area, and what actions are you willing to take to act on this insight?

Answers to fill in the blanks:
INTRODUCTION 1. SPEAK 2. USELESS
WHAT ARE THE KEYS TO CONTROLLING OUR WORDS?
1. WHOLE LIVES 1) HUMILITY 2) CHRIST-LIKE 3) PERFECT 4) BRIDLE 5) REINS
2. LEAD 1) INFLUENCE 2) LIPS, SHIPS, STEERING
3. HARM 1) SPIRITUAL ARSON 2) GEHENNA
4. ALONE 1) UNSTABLE 2) TRANSFORM
5. CHOICE TO MAKE 1) HYPOCRITICAL 2) EMPTY 3) ZERO 4) GENUINE

SERMON NOTES

SAY WHAT?

James 3:1-12

INTRODUCTION

1. James said we are to be quick to listen, slow to _____, and slow to anger (James 1:19).
2. He also said if Christians don't control what they say their faith is _____ (James 1:26).

MAIN IDEA: IF REAL FAITH IS EVIDENCED BY SAYING THE THINGS WE SHOULD, WHY DO WE SAY THE THINGS WE SHOULDN'T?

WHAT ARE THE KEYS TO CONTROLLING OUR WORDS?

1. WE MUST ADMIT THAT OUR WORDS REVEAL OUR HEART

THAT DIRECTS OUR _____.

James 3:1-2 (CSB)

¹ Not many should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we will receive a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is mature, able also to control the whole body.

- 1) We should approach teaching with tons of _____!
- 2) Having a _____ life begins with the words that come out of our mouth (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- 3) *Mature* can also mean _____.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

Matthew 15:18 (CSB)

¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, ...

4) The word *control* is literally _____.

James 3:3 (CSB)

³ Now if we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we direct their whole bodies.

5) The question is who _____ in our lives?

2. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT OUR WORDS _____ OTHERS.

James 3:4-5a (CSB)

⁴ And consider ships: Though very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So too, though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts great things.

1) We should never underestimate the _____ of what we say to others.

2) Loose _____ sink _____! The question is what ship(s) are we _____?

3. WE MUST NOT FOOL OURSELVES INTO THINKING THAT WORDS DO NO _____.

James 3:5b-6 (CSB)

Consider how a small fire sets ablaze a large forest. ⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed among our members. It stains the whole body, sets the course of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

1) Just as a spark can wipe out an entire forest, evil words can commit _____ . (Romans 6:11-14)

2) *Hell* is the Greek word _____, which refers to the Hinnom Valley, the burning garbage dump of 1st century Jerusalem and a picture of the place prepared for Satan and demons.

4. WE CANNOT CONTROL OUR WORDS _____, WE NEED CHRIST.

James 3:7-8 (CSB)

⁷ Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish is tamed and has been tamed by humankind, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

1) *Restless* is the same word for _____ in James 1:8.

2) The Holy Spirit can _____ our heart and change the whole person, including our words.

5. EVERY TIME WE OPEN OUR MOUTHS, WE HAVE A _____.

James 3:9-12 (CSB)

⁹ With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way. ¹¹ Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.

1) Blessing God and cursing people equals _____ faith.

2) Cursing God and blessing people equals _____ faith.

3) Cursing God and cursing people equals _____ faith.

4) Blessing God and blessing people equals _____ faith.