

The Book

of James

LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE—WEEK FIVE

MAIN IDEA

James 3:3-12 talks about the importance of taming our tongues. We tend to minimize how negative words affect us and others, but words have more power than we know. As we walk out our faith journey, it's critical for us to recognize three specific truths about our words: They will determine the direction of our lives; they have the power to destroy what we have; and they will always reveal what's in our hearts.

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

- We need to allow God to change our hearts. When we surrender our hearts and lives to God, He will empower us to change our words.
- We need to put a filter on what we allow in our hearts. Jesus said our words come out of the overflow of our hearts. When we make healthy choices regarding what we watch, listen to, and participate in, we will have healthy hearts and be able to speak in a way that pleases God.
- We need to decide to speak words of life. We can bless others by speaking words of affection, praise, encouragement, healing, and faith over them.

"OUT OF THE SAME MOUTH COME PRAISE AND CURSING. MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THIS SHOULD NOT BE."

JAMES 3:10

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Share a personal example of how someone's words have shaped your life in a positive or negative way.
2. What are your current filters for what you watch and listen to? What changes do you need to make to assure you only allow healthy things into your heart?
3. What are some practical ways you can speak words of life over others this week? Who in your life most needs to hear life-giving words?

"WE SHAPE OUR WORDS, AND THEN OUR WORDS SHAPE US."

PRAYER

God, thank You for helping us understand the power of our words. We want to speak words that align with Your will for our lives and bring life to others. We surrender our lives to You today and pray that the thoughts and feelings of our hearts, and the words in our mouths, will please You, Lord.

LEADER TIPS

- Take note of any group members who are stepping up to take other group members out to lunch, pray for them, etc. Their next step may be to attend Small Group Leadership Training.
- Don't forget: Small Group is more than just one meeting a week. Text your group members when the Holy Spirit brings them to mind. Mid-week, use your group text or GroupMe to check in to see how everyone is doing.