



JAMES 3:1-18

Real talk – taming the tongue

Notes for leader

Main point (for you to have in mind – don't read to group):

A mature Christian tames their tongues to speak consistently with their faith.

This term we'll be using the COMA structure to help develop good bible reading skills.
C = context, O = observations, M = meaning / interpretation, A = application.

- How did you find the sermon on the weekend?
- Can you remember any hurtful words you heard as a kid? (That you're happy to share... these can run deep!)

Pray for your time together.

Read James 3:1-18

1. It's clear this passage is about our tongues, our speech. How does this tie in with James' overall letter? (C)

TONGUES OF FIRE

2. Why is it dangerous to aspire to be a teacher in God's church? (O)

3. If you had to sum up James' view of the tongue in 1 word, what words come to mind? (O)

- a. Can we tame it? (O)
- b. Should we give up? (M)
- c. What would happen to us if we grew in our ability to tame the tongue? (M)
 - i. How do the analogies help us picture that? (M)
- d. If you were writing this letter, would you spend so much time on this topic? What might need to change in your thinking about this area of life? (A)

4. What does this passage teach about what it means to be a human being? (O)
- a. What forces are at work affecting our speech? (M)
 - i. How do the analogies help us picture that? (M)
 - b. Will we ever reach perfection in this life? (M)
 - i. Do you find that encouraging or discouraging? (A)
 - c. Does that mean we have no value as human beings? (M + A)
(What does the passage say?)
5. Why does our value (previous Q) make it particularly wrong to curse people? (O)
- a. How do the analogies help us picture that? (M)
 - b. How does this relate to God's big goal for us? (James 1:4) (M)
 - c. How might you find yourself cursing people in the process of... (A)
 - i. driving to work,
 - ii. being at work,
 - iii. playing soccer after work,
 - iv. coming home and putting the kids to bed.
 - d. ... and what it look like to respond in a way that's more consistent with our belief that these people are made in God's image? (A)

WISDOM FROM WHERE?

6. What are the two sources of "wisdom"? (O)
7. What do the different 'wisdoms' each lead to, and which destination sounds more attractive to you? (O)
8. Use verses 13-18 to draw 2 pictures, one of the worldly 'wise' person and one of the truly wise. Try to get as many of the features into each picture as you can. (M)

Split into pairs or triplets, and share one feature from these drawings you'd like to work on. (A)

If time, share how you think you might work on it.
Then pray in those pairs for each other.