



STUDY GUIDE SIX – FROM SERMON ON OCTOBER 19

Words are powerful. They can build up or tear down, heal or wound, bless or curse. James reminds us that our tongues, though small, hold incredible influence—and that controlling our speech is one of the greatest challenges of faith. In this study, we'll explore why our words matter so much and how God can help us speak with wisdom and grace.

READ JAMES 3:1-2 TOGETHER

Why does James say teachers will be judged more strictly (v. 1)?
What does this teach us about the weight of our words?

In what ways do our words reveal our spiritual maturity (v. 2)?

READ JAMES 3:3-6 TOGETHER

How do the illustrations of the bit, rudder, and spark help you understand the tongue's power?

James says the tongue can “set the whole course of one’s life on fire” (v. 6). Can you think of examples where words have caused great harm—or great good?

READ JAMES 3:7-12 TOGETHER

Why do you think James says no human can tame the tongue (v. 8)?
How does this point us toward our need for God’s help?

How do verses 9–10 expose the contradiction in our speech toward God and people?

What does James teach with the images of fresh and salt water, and fig trees and olives (vv. 11–12)?

WRAPPING IT UP

When have your words built someone up? When have they caused harm? How can you learn from those moments?

What steps can we take to ensure our speech reflects Christ?

What role does prayer play in controlling the tongue? How can you depend on God in this area?

Who can you speak life and encouragement to this week?

Close your time together by praying for one another.