

11/30

# HOME GROUP GUIDE

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

### ***LISTEN***

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passages(s)



### ***REFLECT***

Prayerfully answer the questions below



### ***DISCUSS***

Meet with your group to discuss



### ***RESPOND***

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

## **BACKGROUND:**

James is a very practical letter, offering instructions on how to apply faith in daily life. In chapter three, James discusses the impact of false teaching. Here, James warns that not many should become teachers. This doesn't mean there is no need for more teachers, far from it (1 Corinthians 4:15). However, he cautions that teachers will be judged more strictly because they have the potential to cause the most harm.

We often associate false doctrine and poor theology with preachers and teachers who have a pulpit or a platform. In reality, every believer is responsible for using their words to share the truth. A truly transformed life will lead to a passion for transformed lives. This means we will choose our words carefully, recognizing their immense power.

## **OPEN:**

1. How have particular teachers made a lasting impression on you, maybe even shaping the paths you've chosen in life?

## **REFLECT:**

2. Read James 3:1-6. What warning does James give to aspiring teachers? What might be some reasons for stricter judgment on those who teach?

3. What does James mean when he says someone who never stumbles in what they say is "perfect"? What do words have to do with being a mature person?

4. Read James 3:7-12. Based on this passage, what does the tongue reveal about a person's heart and mind? If a believer realizes that their words disqualify them as a teacher, what would be the proper response?

## **APPLY:**

5. Share a time when you saw words have a significant impact on someone, whether it was positive or negative. What made this event so memorable?

6. Why does James say that the tongue is impossible to control by our own strength? What does it look like to seek God's help in managing our tongues?

7. James emphasizes the importance of aligning the faith we claim with the words we proclaim. How does this passage encourage you to be more conscious of your words? What are some specific ways you can bless the people in your life by aligning your words with your faith?

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