



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 2 OF THE GOOD LIFE

WARM-UP QUESTION

Is there a word that you always mispronounce? What is it?

DISCUSS

Discuss the importance of measuring your words through these four criteria: 1) Is it true, 2) Is it helpful, 3) Is the timing right, and 4) Is it loving? Why is each question important? Which one do you struggle to include in your current response habits?

Read James 1:21-22,26 (NLT).

- What does being a “doer of the word” look like to you?
- When you are frustrated or tired, how do you tend to use your words? What changes or patterns do you notice?
- James says that our religion is “worthless” if we cannot control our tongue. How does that challenge the way you think about spiritual maturity, and how are you doing at controlling your tongue?

Read James 3:1-12 (NLT).

- Why is the tongue compared to a fire and restless evil? What point is James making?
- What does this passage reveal about the nature of sin and the difficulty of self-control?
- What habits of speech (gossip, sarcasm, complaining, flattery, etc.) do you struggle with? What can you do to recognize it in advance and course-correct before it is too late?

Read Proverbs 12:18,25 (NLT).

- What metaphors are used here? How do they vividly portray the power of words?
- What does it mean for words to be like “sword thrusts”? How does this help you understand the damage speech can do?
- What might it look like for the tongue to “bring healing” in a real-world situation?

Read Luke 6:45 (NLT).

- Why do you think Jesus focuses on the heart instead of just behavior or speech alone?
- What do your current speech patterns reveal about the condition of your heart today? Where do you need to make changes, and what practical steps can help you get started?

Read James 3:10-12 (NLT).

- When are you most tempted to speak negatively in a way that contradicts your faith?
- Have you noticed inconsistency in your speech—blessing God but criticizing others? How can you become more intentional about using words to bless and build up?

Read Ephesians 4:25,29 (NLT).

- What do you think qualifies as “corrupting talk”?
- Do you find it easier to tear down or build up with your words? Why?
- How can these verses influence how you respond as either the offender or the offended?