

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

James 3:1-12

For Starting

- Would you prefer to be stranded on a deserted island alone, or with someone that you don't like? Why?
- What is the ONE greatest word / phrase of encouragement that you have received?
- Why do you think Christians often worried about talking to others about what they believe?

For Reviewing

- What does James say will happen to those who teach (v.1)?
- What must "perfect people" do (v.2)?
- What 2 things does James compare to a tongue in v.3-4?
Why do you think the tongue has such control over our lives?
- What TWO other comparisons does James make in v.5-6?
What is the point of these 2 comparisons?
- v.7-8 emphasise the challenge to control the tongue. What makes this challenge so difficult?
- What THREE analogies from nature does James use in v.9-12?
How do they highlight the inconsistencies of the tongue?

For Discussion

- Why do you think people often give advice that they don't follow themselves?
- Quote: "*The tongue is a small member in the body, and yet it has the power to accomplish great things.*" Do you agree/disagree? Why?
- In what ways can the tongue poison relationships?
- James mainly focuses on the negative power of the tongue. But how can the tongue also bring healing and refreshment?
- "*When you talk to God about people, then you can talk to people about God.*" How can you make your tongue a source of life rather than an instrument of destruction?
- You could end by reading together James 3:10

James 3:1-12 (NIVUK)

Taming the tongue

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.