

STUDY GUIDE: “Taming the Tongue”

Discussion Starters

1. Do you believe that someone can be perfectly qualified for a job, but disqualified because of a character flaw? Why/why not?
2. “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” That is a well-known idiom that illustrates a truth that the words spoken do not have the ability to hurt someone. Do you believe that?

Read: Psalm 19:14, Ephesians 4:25-29, Matthew 12:33-37, Proverbs 12:16-23, Proverbs 29:20, Proverbs 25:11, Colossians 3:17, James 3:1-12

Questions

3. Why does James discourage people to become teachers? What is happening in the lives of the people that makes him say this? How can the sins of a teacher hurt the pupils?
4. In verse 6, James says that the tongue is a fire that defiles the whole body; another way to say this is that it stains the whole body. Based on this section of scripture (James 3:1-12) how does this happen? How have you seen this happen in the world?
5. How do verses 8-12 show us how unnaturally sinful our tongues can be? What steps can you take to change this?

Taking It Home

6. Have you sinned against someone with your words and not sought forgiveness? What will you do this week to reconcile that?
7. Is there an area of sin that you must address and work on in order to be used to share the gospel?