



COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Mirrors: The Book of James - Part 5

Hearts of Glue: The Power of Words

LEADER REMINDERS: For both of these, you can make it easy on your group and have your computer out and ready for sing-ups

- We want to be involved in God's mission in the world! Remind your groups to sign up for the different [short term mission trips](#).
- Over the summer, there are many opportunities to join our volunteer teams to serve God's church. Who in your group doesn't have a volunteer team? [Sign up for a volunteer team here.](#)

INTRODUCTION

LEADER NOTES: *This is simply a guide to help discussion about the Scripture that was preached over the weekend. You are not bound to it. Ultimately, you know your group best and if God redirects your group's time away from the Community Group Guide that is great. Please do not abandon a fruitful conversation for the sake of getting all the questions answered.*

This week we covered the entire third chapter of James, specifically talking about taming the tongue and godly wisdom. James shows us that taming the tongue is an incredibly difficult task. It can be the small spark that causes a great fire. As followers of Christ we are not meant to curse others with our words but rather we are called to bless. This can only be possible through immersing our hearts and minds in the wisdom that comes from God.

OPENING QUESTIONS

LEADER NOTES: *These questions are here to help your group get their minds re-engaged with the passage and teaching points from the weekend message. Think of this as "priming the pump" for a more interactive discussion in your time together. Don't feel the need to answer all of these.*

1. What stood out to you in this week's sermon?
2. If you were to boil everything you heard this weekend down to one point, what would it be?

INVESTIGATING SCRIPTURE

LEADER NOTES: *The following questions will help you work through the passage(s). Have someone read the passage(s) aloud, dividing among two or three people if needed. If there is a good, fruitful conversation going, you do not have to cut it off to get back to the questions.*

A good way to study the Bible is by using three steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. We want to observe the passage first to get an idea of what is happening. Then we interpret the meaning of the passage so that we can apply it to our lives. The following questions will follow this pattern as we look through this Biblical passage.

Scripture: Read James 3:1-18

Observation

1. What does James mean that teachers are going to be judged “with greater strictness?”, and why does this matter?
 - a. James is not talking about the judgment of salvation. He is saying that teachers are put in charge over the lives of others. They could possibly lead people away from God instead of towards Him. Teachers need to be humble and godly if they are going to lead God's people because they are accountable before God for every word that they say.
2. How is someone “perfect” if they are able to bridle the tongue?
 - a. “Out of the heart, the mouth speaks.” What you say reveals what is in your heart. Since Christians are still in the flesh, they will still stumble in what they say and not perfectly bridle their tongues. James is illustrating this in a major way by saying that anyone who never stumbles is a perfect man.

Interpretation

1. What makes the tongue so powerful?
 - a. There are many different reasons but the primary one that James points out is its affect on others. Words can pierce to the heart and you can never take words back. They have incredible power over other people.

2. If the tongue is untamable as James says (3.8), how can we tame it?
 - a. No one can tame the tongue in their own strength. This is why we need the strength of God. Though we will not do it perfectly, the more we pursue God and His righteousness, the more we will walk in His wisdom and self control. This will give us the grace to tame the tongue.
3. How can you tell the difference between earthly wisdom and wisdom from above?
 - a. By the type of “conduct” that people have.
4. How does “taming the tongue” and “wisdom that comes from God” relate to one another?
 - a. You cannot tame the tongue without God giving you wisdom.
5. While excuses for harsh words never help, why, on the other hand, are the two words “I’m sorry” so important for us to say and to hear?

Application

1. James clearly shows us the damage that we can inflict on others with our words. Is there anyone you need to repent to that you have hurt with your words?
2. Is there anyone who you need to forgive who has hurt you with their words?
3. What are some steps you can take to walk in wisdom that comes from God?

Homework: Look for opportunities to speak life through your words this week to those you come in contact with.

PRAYER

LEADER NOTES: *The following is designed simply as an outline for you to use in your group prayer time. Feel free to make this your own and adjust it to fit your group.*

Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. Divide up into groups of 2-3 people and use the following points to guide you through a time of prayer together.

Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Wisdom has to come from the Lord to a heart that have been transformed by the Holy Spirit. If we are going to walk in walk in wisdom with tongues that are tamed, God has to give us His grace to do so. This is why we pray! We cannot make God change us and we definitely cannot change ourselves so we approach God humbly in prayer and ask for hearts that love and fear Him.

With this hope in mind pray for:

1. Pray for the people of Mercy Church to have hearts that fear and love the Lord.
2. Pray for reconciliation and healing in people that we have hurt with our words.
3. Pray that we as God's people would walk in His wisdom that is, "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."