



## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

# Mirrors: The Book of James - Part 5

## *Hearts of Glue: The Power of Words*

### INTRODUCTION

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

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**

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?
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How is someone “perfect” if they are able to bridle the tongue?

#### **Interpretation**

1. What makes the tongue so powerful?
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. If the tongue is untamable as James says (3.8), how can we tame it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How can you tell the difference between earthly wisdom and wisdom from above?
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How does “taming the tongue” and “wisdom that comes from God” relate to one another?

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

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."