

James 3:1-12

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations. Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

*Our preaching series this spring is **Fruitful: Studies in James**. Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories **BEFORE** you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.*

- Read **James 3:1-12**. What stands out for you?
- Why is controlling our speech such an important issue for James, something he addresses multiple times (see 1:19, 26, 3:9, 4:11, 5:12)?
- What is the warning in 3:1-2? To whom does it apply?
- Consider the three images James uses to describe the words we speak: A bit to control horses, a rudder to steer ships, and a spark that causes forest fires. Which image catches your attention? Why?
- Verse 6 is difficult to translate (compare NIV, NLT, NRSV, NASB, KJV if you have these translations available). What do you think this verse means?
- Given that we cannot tame the tongue (3:8), is there any way we could develop greater discipline in how we use language?
- Is there any way back from saying words we now regret?
- Read Matthew 12:33-37. What does Jesus say about the words we use?
- James ends this section with a reminder that words have power. Can you think of an example where someone either blessed you or cursed you? What was this experience like? What do you remember most?
- Who can you bless this week? How will you do that?