

# Life Group Discussion Guide

The Book of James

January 17

## LEADER NOTES

In week 3 of the Book of James, Mike Howerton discussed the power and danger of words. Beyond just the spoken word, written words and social media post have the power to bring both life and death. How we choose to use them reflects our own health and relationship with Christ

Remember to check out the videos from our teaching team each week at [alcpnw.com/life-group-notes](http://alcpnw.com/life-group-notes). These videos include extra content from each week's teacher and a great prompt for your group discussion.

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

## THIS WEEK'S TEXT

### James 3:1-12 (NIV)

*Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup>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.*

<sup>3</sup>*When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.*

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

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

## LOOK UP

Reread verses 9-12 of this week's text, and discuss how our words and our faith relate to one another.

## LOOK AROUND

Who is a teacher/speaker that you love to listen to? What is it about them that you enjoy?

How would you describe your self-talk, or thoughts about yourself?

## LOOK AHEAD

Pastor Mike summed up James 3 in the following statement:

### Be wise with your people-talk.

The following phrases break down what this statement means. Read them one-at-a-time and discuss what it looks like to practically live them out in your life:

- Speak Life
- Be Kind
- Listen Much

## PRAYER