

LIFEGROUP

STUDY ON JAMES 3:1-11

These LifeGroup questions are structured to allow for deeper discussions following on from the Sunday sermon on the book of James. Please don't limit yourself to just these questions, feel free to ask more questions as the Spirit leads. But please don't feel you have to answer all of them either. May the Spirit lead you and your group to dig deeper into knowing more about God.

WARMING UP

1. When was the last time you told a lie?
(either a big one, or even a minor white lie
— side question: is a white lie ok in the eyes of God?)
2. When was the last time you cursed/swore? Why?

READ JAMES 3:1-11 — OBSERVATIONS:

3. Who is James addressing here?
4. The big picture: what is this whole section about?
5. Summarise the illustrations/metaphors mentioned in this passage.

— INTERPRETATION:

6. What does verse 1 mean? Why is this so?
7. Of the illustration/metaphors used, which works? Which doesn't? Why? If you could come up with your own illustration/metaphor, what would you suggest?
8. Why is the tongue powerful? Do we have a tendency to make great boasts? Why? Why do we have a tendency to say bad things? Gossip? Lie? Slander? Curse?
9. What is the significance and meaning behind verses 9-11. Why?

— APPLICATION:

10. Personally speaking, how often do you find your words are damaging and you are reminded that you need to think before you speak?
11. How has your language changed, for better or worse through the years? (choice of language / cursing / insults / encouragement / saying I love you etc.?)
12. How should our language set us apart from those around us? Does our language demonstrate Christ? Why or why not?
13. How can we practically bring glory to our God through the words that come from our lips? What methods can we apply to our lives?

MOVING FORWARD IN PRAYER

Sometimes, all it takes is for a careless word to cause a fire. Sometimes it's simply miscommunication that causes a big conflict, misinterpretation of language, said or unsaid. Our words carry a lot of weight. And as Christians, we are called to bring God glory through the words we say. After all, the things communicated can communicate what really lies in our hearts. May Christ completely dwell in there, so He may be revealed through our words to those around us, spreading light and his redemptive love.

Encouragement Group Task:

You will need: paper & pens, enough for one person each in your group.

- Distribute a sheet of paper to each person in your group
- Write your name on the top of the sheet of paper
- Pass your sheet to the person on your right
- You will then receive a sheet from the person on your left
- Under their name, write a short prayer/words of encouragement for that person on his/her sheet
- You can spend as little as 1 minute, to maybe 5 minutes (time dependent!), thoughtfully writing for your brother/sister,
- Then pass that sheet to the person on your right
- Keep rotating your sheets, and write prayers/words of encouragement to one another.
- When you receive your own named sheet, the task is finished.
- Read through the sheet, and feel free to keep them to read on a rainy day when you need encouragement or a reminder.