

8th Grade Boys Mid Group
JAMES 3 Taming The Tongue
August 26, 2008

READ JAMES Chapter 3

Questions for verses 1-12

- 1. What are some ways that our mouth can get us into trouble or sin? (cussing, putting others down, gossip, lying, etc)**
- 2. What illustrations do you see in this passage? How does James use objects and animals to describe the nature and power of the tongue?**
- 3. What are some of the main problems with the tongue, according to James?**
- 4. Verse 2 says that a person who can control his tongue is perfect. What do you think this means?**
- 5. 2. What are some personal areas that you struggle with concerning the tongue?**
- 6. What do you find most frightening about this passage? What do you find most challenging?**
- 7. What are some ways that you can control your tongue?**

Questions for verses 13-18 *Leaders: Notice in verse 13 that James again brings up the issue of deeds if you wanted to hit the discussion from last week again, or at least point it out.*

- 1. What is wisdom?**
- 2. What is the difference between wisdom and what we learn in school?**
- 3. What can be learned from wisdom, why is it important?**

James 3

Taming the Tongue

1Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

3When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4Or 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. 5Likewise 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. 6The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

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

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

Two Kinds of Wisdom

13Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.