

James 3:1-12

1. Share with the group when you have been on the receiving end of some hurtful comments and how you dealt with it.
2. Share with the group when you have said something that was either misunderstood or hurtful and what the consequences were.
3. Why should we not be too quick to become public speakers (v1)?
4. Can anyone ever not say anything that is ever hurtful or wrong (v2)? How should this help us with our expectations of ourselves and others?
5. What does James compare our tongue to in verses 3-6? What lessons do each of these comparisons teach us about talking and how we should speak?
6. Is it humanly possible to totally control everything we say (v7-8)? Why or why not? How? See also Matthew 12:33-37; 15:17-20; Ephesians 4:29-32; 5:18-19.
7. What does James say is impossible (v9-12)? How does this relate to what he has already said about our speech?
8. When have you felt difficulty controlling what you say? What have you found helpful for controlling your tongue and for changing the source of your words (your heart)?