

OF JAMES

James - Part 5

Say what you need to Say

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

James 3:1-12 (TPT)

My dear brothers and sisters, don't be so eager to become a teacher in the church since you know that we who teach are held to a higher standard of judgment. **We all fail in many areas, but especially with our words.** Yet if we're able to bridle the words we say we are powerful enough to control ourselves in every way, and that means our character is mature and fully developed. ³ Horses have bits and bridles in their mouths so that we can control and guide their large body. ⁴ And the same with mighty ships, though they are massive and driven by fierce winds, yet they are steered by a tiny rudder at the direction of the person at the helm. ⁵ And so **the tongue is a small part of the body yet it carries great power!** Just think of how a small flame can set a huge forest ablaze. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. For every wild animal on earth including birds, creeping reptiles, and creatures of the sea and land have all been

overpowered and tamed by humans, ⁸ but the tongue is not able to be tamed. It's a fickle, unrestrained evil that spews out words full of toxic poison! ⁹ We use our tongue to praise God our Father and then turn around and curse a person who was made in his very image! ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth we pour out words of praise one minute and curses the next. My brothers and sister, this should never be! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? ¹² Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

James 3:8

But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a spring of restless evil, brimming with toxic poisons.

James 1:26 (TPT)

If someone believes they have a relationship with God but fails to guard his words, then his heart is drifting away and his religion is worthless, shallow and empty.

Prov. 18:21 (NIV)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue,

Prov. 18:21 (TPT)

Your words are so powerful that they will kill or give life,

Prov. 18:21 (MSG)

Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.

Four ways we can “say what we need to say.”

1. Increase your joy by guarding your words

- **1 Peter 3:10-11** (TPT)

“If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil (bad report) and your lips from telling lies . . .

- **Psalm 34:12-14** (TPT)

Do you want to live a long, good life, **enjoying the beauty that fills each day?**

Then never speak a lie or allow wicked words to come from your mouth. Keep turning your back on every sin, and make “peace” your life motto. Practice being at peace with everyone.

- **Prov. 21:23** (TPT)

Watch your words and be careful what you say, and you'll be surprised how few troubles you'll have.

2. Replace Complaints with Praise!

- **Exodus 15:23**

When they came to the oasis of Marah, the water was too bitter to drink. So they called the place Marah (which means "bitter") and the people complained and turned against Moses.

- **Numbers 21:4-5**

Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient with the long journey, and they began to speak against God and Moses. "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?" they complained. "There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!"

- **Psalms 44:8**

O God, we give glory to you **all day long** and **constantly** praise your name.

- **1 Thess. 5:18** (TPT)

And in the midst of everything **be always giving thanks**, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.

3. Avoid rehearsing the negative ("the evil report")

- **Numbers 13:25-33**

After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. This was their report to Moses: "We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak! The Amalekites live in the Negev, and

the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country. The Canaanites live along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and along the Jordan Valley.”

But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. “Let’s go at once to take the land,” he said. “We can certainly conquer it!”

But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. **“We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!”**

So they spread this bad (*evil and disheartening*) report about the land among the Israelites: “The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants there...”

4. Speak to your future

- **Romans 4:17**

“... God who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.”

- **2 COR. 4:13**

It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, **we also believe and therefore speak,**

TALK IT THROUGH

Begin your group time by reading together the key passage, James 3:1-12.

1. What’s one of the nicest things someone has said to you? Why was it so impactful?
2. Read Proverbs 4:23 and 18:21 aloud, and discuss where our words originate and their potential impact. If you ever wonder how your heart is doing, just listen to your words. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being high), how would you rate yourself on intentionality with your speech?

Pastor Dave gave 4 ways we can “say what we need to say.” Let’s discuss each one.

3. Increase your joy by guarding your words.

Read 1 Peter 3:10-11 (TPT). When we over talk about our problem, joy leaks out. How can we strike a balance between expressing how we're doing with a close friend or spouse, and also adhere to this principle?

4. Replace complaints with praise!

Pastor Dave said that where you complain, you remain, but praise produces progress. Share an example of this from your life. How can we begin to recognize the bitter water in our lives? (Psalm 44:8 TLB)

5. Avoid rehearsing the negative.

The accurate facts of a situation might be negative, but according to Numbers 13:25-33 (the bad report), focusing on them is where we can go wrong. Like Caleb, how can we magnify the Word of God over our situations?

6. Speak to your future.

(Ezek. 37:1-7) God releases creative power when we use our words to speak his word into our situations. What are some promises and truths from God's word you can speak over the situations in the lives of one another in your group?