

Scripture | James 3:1-12

Ice Breaker | 1. What is one encouraging thing someone said to you that has stuck with you? Why do you think you still remember it?

Going Deeper |

1. Is there anything that stood out to you from Sunday's message, or do you have any questions.
2. In the message this week, Rob mentioned people need a ratio of five positive words of encouragement for every one negative criticism they receive. What do you think about that? Do you think that is true?
3. Can you think of a situation where applying this ratio of positive to negative words helped improve a relationship in your life?
4. Why do you think we hold on to the negative comments we have received?
5. Read James 3:1-12
6. What do you think James' main point is in this passage?
7. Why does James caution about becoming a teacher, knowing they will be judged more strictly?
8. Discuss the analogies James uses (bits in horse's mouths, ships' rudders, sparks in a forest). What do these illustrations reveal about the power of the tongue?
9. What does James mean when he describes the tongue as a "world of evil" and a fire that can corrupt the whole body?
10. How can we ensure that our words reflect God's character in our daily interactions? Share practical steps or practices.
11. Take a moment to reflect on the conversations you had in the last week or two. Have your words aligned with God's character? Why or why not?
12. Discuss James's argument that praising God and cursing others should not coexist. How can we align our words with our belief in the image of God in every person?
13. What do the metaphors of fresh water and salt water from the same spring, or a fig tree bearing olives, communicate about consistency in our speech?
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15. What are some practical ways you can invite the Holy Spirit to help you control your words in difficult situations or conversations?

