



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2016

### BIG IDEA:

The tongue is small and mostly hidden from sight. But it can (and does) affect the entire course of your life. This series focuses on James 3:2-6 which says that "those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way." This week we're looking at how we praise the Lord and with it we curse those made in our God's likeness, my brothers this ought not be so. If we, as believers understand the purpose of our tongue as an agent of God's grace, we would run to bless others with our words and flee from temptation of using words like poison. What we'll see throughout this series is a right of God's purpose for our tongue met with right action changes everything! .

### ICE BREAKER:

This is our last small group before Thanksgiving. What are you thankful for or what's a fun family tradition unique to your holidays?

### DISCUSSION:

- Lets read James 3:5-12  
Last week we really talked about verses 5-8 and the destruction of gossip, this week we want to focus on the message of 9-10 and it's context.
  - Verse 5 & 6 talk about fire that is set because of the tongue. Whats a real life example of a fire you've caused because of word you said. Think of John's point of smokey the bear and wildfires, he said most wild fires are caused by human error.  
(Kids could have not meant to be mean or not meant to be heard, help them dig for scenarios in their world.)
  - In verse 8 James goes on to compare the restless evil with deadly poison. Have you lashed out with your words. Or been too quick to speak and regretted what you said? Turn back to James 1:9. What are we called to?
  - I think sometimes we hear teachers or Harrison or adults that speak at WAKE talk about "filters" hey, you might even hear your small group leader to ask you to "filter". What do they mean by that? What are filters? Think Pool filter versus a britta water filter. The goals are different. What should our filter be?
  - Lets jump to Luke 6:45 real fast. (Read aloud verse)... In summary this scripture is reminding us we speak out of an overflow of what's in our hearts. Maybe you've heard it said that even in joking there can lie truth to what people are trying to play off as just "kidding around". IF you've ever had people "kid around" about something that's a struggle for you, have you wondered, 'but do they really believe that?' - - (grades could be a good example story)
  - So looking at verse 9 & 10 again in James 3. What is it saying?
  - If you flipped to Matthew 21 you would see Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the people LOVED Him. If you flipped to Matthew 27 you'd see people feeling and acting and saying quite the opposite. On Thursday they're singing Hosanna meaning Jesus save me and on Friday they're saying "crucify him" "give us barrabus". Is it confusing that these are the same people?
  - So did the crowds really love Jesus all along or hate Jesus all along? What do you believe to be true about them based on their words? - Remember Luke 6:45.
  - What might people believe to be true about you based on your words?
0. Our title for this series is "this changes everything". How is it that our words can change or direct our course in life?
1. Do the things we say determine our course? Our outcome? (Look at James 3:4-5)

### APPLICATION:

2. So lets be honest here. Where have you used your words to bless those made in God's likeness this week? Who do you think your life was made in the image of Christ? Who are the image bearers?
3. If we got to ask Jesus- "What's in their heart" what would he say about you? Based on your words what might your siblings say about your love for God's people? Your love for God.
4. Does your life need changing? (Beyond your words and tongue)