



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM November 6, 2016

### **BIG IDEA:**

The tongue is small but powerful. Often Junior high students use the power in their tongues for the purpose of gossip which is defined as talking carelessly about someone else's business. If we, as believers understand the purpose of our tongue as an agent of God's grace, we would reject gossip and choose instead to offer words that build up and encourage others. What we'll see throughout this series is a right view of God's purpose for our tongue changes everything!

**Icebreaker Question:** What is the best vacation that you've ever been on? What made it awesome?

### **DISCUSSION:**

1. Read James 3:2-6 together. How are our tongues like a rudder on a ship, a bit in the mouth of a horse, and small spark of fire?
2. Does anyone here ever get worried that people are gossiping about them? Why?
3. What's the problem with gossip?
4. Why do people like to share or listen to gossip?
5. Read James 3:7-12 together. What stood out to you as you read? What is the purpose of the tongue according to these verses?
6. Look Up Proverbs 11:13, "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret." How does gossip affect the gossipers' character and reputation with others?
7. Look up Proverbs 16:28, "...a gossip separates close friends." How does gossip affect our friendships? Has anyone here ever witnessed a friendship being damaged or broken by gossip?
8. How can you run away from using your tongue for destruction but instead as an agent of God's grace? What could help you be more careful with your words? Look up Proverbs 10:19, 11:12, and 21:23 for ideas
9. Decide as a group how you can hold each other accountable for the specific ways you struggle with gossip.