

## BIBLE STUDY

James 3:1-12

2/27/16

### KEEP FROM STUMBLING = TONGUE CONTROL

<sup>3</sup> My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many things. **If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.** <sup>3</sup> Indeed, <sup>[a]</sup> we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. <sup>4</sup> Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. <sup>5</sup> Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

**Q1:** What is James intention in verse 1?

**Q2:** What role does our speech have in our lives?

**Q3:** What 2 examples does James use to demonstrate the role of our tongue/speech?

What does each example teach us about how important our tongue is? **(IMAGES)**

### DEFILE THE WHOLE BODY= TONGUE FIRE/POISON

See how great a forest a little fire kindles! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that **it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.** <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. <sup>8</sup> But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

**Q4:** What negative descriptors & characteristics does James use for the tongue?

**(GO OUTSIDE & LIGHT A CHRISTMAS TREE ON FIRE)**

**Q5:** How does verse 8 and verse 2 correlate? What does that teach us?

### KISS YOUR FATHER WITH THAT MOUTH?

<sup>9</sup> With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. <sup>10</sup> **Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.** My brethren, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus **no spring yields both salt water and fresh.** <sup>[b]</sup>

**Q6:** What contradiction does James bring up about the tongue?

**Q7:** What 3 examples are used to teach us about having hypocritical speech?

What does each example teach us about how important sincere speech is? **(IMAGES)**



