



## James Series Study Sheet

Week 8

Text: James 3:1-12

Message Title: The Power of Our Words

Read James 3:1-12

Where have you seen/heard words used to do great harm or great good?

Share an example from your own life of words that were spoken/written to you that had a significant impact on you, either positively or negatively.

Look at the word pictures James uses in v3-5. What do they communicate about the power of our words in shaping our own character?

Read v6. Could this be a description of the power of words to damage a church community?

How have you seen words used in damaging ways in the context of a church (don't name specific people)?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer refers to the "Ministry of Holding One's Tongue." In what situations is it important to hold your tongue in the church? How is this a challenge to you personally?

How can we have loving disagreement and honest communication in our church family without it becoming toxic?

Read v9-10. Reuben referenced this quote by Dallas Willard: "There are two great words in the Bible that describe the posture of our souls toward other people. One is to bless. The other is to curse. We are creatures with wills, and in every encounter with other people we will what is good for them, or we fail to do so; we will what is bad. We cannot help ourselves. Blessings is not just a word. Blessing is the projection of good into the life of another."

How have you used your words/speech to curse others (don't just think of what you say but how you say it)?

How can you use your words/speech to bless others in everyday life?

What one step could you take this week to encourage someone else?