

THE BOOK OF JAMES

Last time you broke down the definition of FAITH into an acronym. Can anyone remember what it is? NO CHEATING 😊

F =

A =

I =

T =

H =

James honestly kicks our butts tonight. Get ready. read **JAMES 3:1-12.**

When has your tongue gotten you into trouble? In other words, when have your words caused you problems? Try to give a specific example.



In what sort of situations is it most difficult for you to hold your tongue? How can God help you with that?

James has challenged us these last few weeks to not only be born again (1:18), but also to grow in that new faith (see 1:25). As we:
read scripture,

learn how to be slow to speak,
be quick to listen,
be slow to become angry,
serve the poor...

...we grow in our faith and *that in turn should show in the words we use and the things we talk about...*

Re-read **VERSES 3:9-12.** Spend time in confession, prayer and worship. Help each other learn how to live this stuff out in sincerity and depth.

LEADER'S GUIDE

Clearly, they need to struggle with what it means to “tame the tongue” and not be sloppy in the way they speak – especially to others.

OPENING OBJECT LESSON

Have some fun with this one. If you can, hide some sort of small digital tape recorder (**I have one**) or just use the old-fashioned cassette model and tape the conversation of your small group in the opening minutes. Be careful to not manipulate it. Just let them talk.

Start the lesson by playing the tape (before reading today's passage in chapter 3). You don't need to play all of it. Just evaluate how the conversation went in those opening minutes. What topics were discussed? Were others spoken of in a godly way? Did small group members build each other up?

If you feel like they need further sensitivity in this arena, **bring along a tube of toothpaste.** Take it outside (somewhere where the toothpaste won't damage anything. Perhaps bring along some newspaper as well - toothpaste really stains paint, wood and cement). Have one of the students lay the tube on the ground, and see if they can squeeze out all of the toothpaste in one squeeze. Once they've done it, then get the group's attention. Ask for a volunteer to try to put all the toothpaste back into the tube.

Clearly, that is the way that our words operate! Underscore the power of the tongue.