



JAMES CHAPTER 3 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- If you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life, what would that one song be?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with you group and pray over each group member by name.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (James 3:1-18)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

James 3:1-12

- In the early church, the role of a teacher in the church was slightly like the role of a Rabbi in Judaism in that this role of a teacher was taken very seriously. It wasn't just about what the teacher said and taught but also about what individuals that were taught saw in the life of the teacher. In other words, did the teachers proclamations match their lifestyles? This is the background in which James is speaking about teaching in the church.

- Why do you think it's easier to tell people what they should be doing rather than practicing it yourself? How can you and I avoid just telling people what to do and not doing it ourselves?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- Notice that James is not demanding or advocating a lifestyle of perfection for anyone based upon what he says in verse 2. In what ways do you need to more simply run away from your sin and run into the arms of God when you sin rather than beating yourself up for what you have done?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- What are some of James' points in using the analogies of the controlling the horse and the ship as compared to our physical tongues?
 - Controlling our tongues is not an act of more human will power or self-control. In fact, more human will power or self-control will probably make controlling our tongues that much more difficult and impossible.
 - Our tongues have great power and ability in both negative and positive ways.
 - Our tongues are constantly and consistently seeking to work for self whether it's promoting ourselves, defending ourselves, and/or making ourselves look better than we really are.
 - Which one of the above three realities is easiest for you to forget?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- Read the following passages and consider the following questions.

- Proverbs 10:19-21
- Proverbs 12:25
- Proverbs 16:24
- Proverbs 18:21
- How are you intentionally surrendering your tongue and speech to the Lord? What does this look like for you? Any best practices that you may have that would help someone else?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

James 3:13-18

- How does this section of text connect with the first section?
 - James wants his audience to understand that our tongues, our speech, and our thought patterns are directly connected to our hearts. Neither function in isolation. The things that I'm absorbing into my heart and mind have a direct impact on the things that pour out of mouth. The things that pour out of my mouth have a direct impact on my tongue, my speech, and my thought patterns.
 - Consider the following questions in light of this section of Scripture?
 - How have you surrendered your ego this week for the sake of the Lord and His kingdom?
 - How have you taken a loss for the sake of the Lord and His kingdom when you knew you were right?
 - How have you allowed the Lord to restrain your lips this week?
 - How have you allowed the Lord to change your thought patterns and processes this week?
 - These are all perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time

Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week. (James Chapter 4)

JAMES CHAPTER 3 (STUDENT)

James 3:1-12

- In the early church, the role of a teacher in the church was slightly like the role of a Rabbi in Judaism in that this role of a teacher was taken very seriously. It wasn't just about what the teacher said and taught but also about what individuals that were taught saw in the life of the teacher. In other words, did the teachers proclamations match their lifestyles? This is the background in which James is speaking about teaching in the church.

- Why do you think it's easier to tell people what they should be doing rather than practicing it yourself? How can you and I avoid just telling people what to do and not doing it ourselves?

- Notice that James is not demanding or advocating a lifestyle of perfection for anyone based upon what he says in verse 2. In what ways do you need to more simply run away from your sin and run into the arms of God when you sin rather than beating yourself up for what you have done?

- What are some of James' points in using the analogies of the controlling the horse and the ship as compared to our physical tongues?
 - Which one of the above three realities is easiest for you to forget?

- Read the following passages and consider the following questions.
 - Proverbs 10:19-21
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 - How are you intentionally surrendering your tongue and speech to the Lord? What does this look like for you? Any best practices that you may have that would help someone else?

James 3:13-18

□ How does this section of text connect with the first section?

○ Consider the following questions in light of this section of Scripture?

- How have you surrendered your ego this week for the sake of the Lord and His kingdom?
- How have you taken a loss for the sake of the Lord and His kingdom when you knew you were right?
- How have you allowed the Lord to restrain your lips this week?
- How have you allowed the Lord to change your thought patterns and processes this week?

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?

What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?