



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of May 6, 2024

1. Some words are so “sticky” that they can cling to us for many years. Can you remember something hurtful, painful, or humiliating that was said to you from long ago, from a friend, parent, teacher, classmate, or boss? What was said to you? Share your story.
2. Read James 3:1-12 aloud, with each person from your group reading one verse. How would you summarize this section of James’ letter in your own words?
3. What did Jesus say about the connection between our words and our heart? Read Matthew 12:34-35.
4. Many of the Jewish Christians wanted to be teachers inside the local church. Teaching was an esteemed role and very influential among the believers of the early church. But what warning does James give about teachers and their words?
5. What two illustrations does James use to describe the tongue in verses 3-4? Explain the two analogies in your own words, and how they illustrate the power of the tongue.
6. The Bible overflows with warnings about communication—how our speech can build up or tear down. Read these famous verses from Proverbs 15:1; 10:19; 18:21.
7. Pastor Ryan suggested that all Christians should download the famous “T.H.I.N.K.” acrostic and display it on their phones and refrigerators. What do each of those letters stand for? *Before you speak...*
T: Is it _____?
H: Is it _____?
I: Is it _____?
N: Is it _____?
K: Is it _____?
8. In what ways is our tongue/speech similar to a fire? (verse 5-6). In what ways can the human tongue unleash hell?
9. What does James say about Christians who are praising Jesus on Sunday and cussing people out on Monday? (James 3:9-12) Why is this kind of speech such a problem? How is it hypocritical?

Close your LifeGroup tonight with an open time of prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to give you help in everyday speech that honors Jesus and aligns with your transformed heart. You don't need more will-power, you need more JESUS and HIS HOLY SPIRIT to see real change in your daily communication.

The words you say reflect the person you are, so speak carefully.