

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM JAMES 3:1-12

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### OPEN IT

- How can a person be hurt by the words of others?
- Why does a compliment give someone confidence?
- What can you learn about a person by listening to him or her speak?

### EXPLORE IT

- 3:1 What unique responsibility does a teacher bear?
- 3:2 If a person were never at fault in what he or she said, what would that show about the person? What is significant about the way we talk?
- 3:3-5 How does a tongue compare to a horse's bit, a ship's rudder, and a spark of fire?
- 3:6-8 How did James describe the tongue? What damage do our tongues do to us? What is so difficult about taming the tongue?
- 3:9-10 In what ways are we inconsistent? Explain how the tongue can be used for both good and evil.
- 3:11-12 What illustrations from nature did James use to condemn cursing? What can a spring or a fruit tree teach us about speech?

### GET IT

- How is a teacher in the church supposed to be different from the average member? Why will God judge teachers more strictly?
- What are ways we sin with our speech?
- Why are sins of speech often overlooked as not serious?
- How is our speech influenced by others around us?
- What practical advice would you give someone who wanted to control his or her tongue better?
- What weaknesses in our lives does our speech often expose?
- In what times or places can your tongue be used for good?
- How can you change your speech to reflect its importance in your life?

### APPLY IT

- If you could hear a recording of everything you said last week, what would you want to edit out?
- What do you need to remove from your speech habits this week to make your words more pleasing to God?
- What positive words do your family and coworkers need to hear from your mouth this week?