

Studies in James

Study Six



Key verse: James 3:13

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.



Big Idea:

Control our tongues. Show that we are following Jesus by what we do, not just what we say.

Kick Off

Have you ever tried to tame an animal? How did it go?
What has been one of the most encouraging things that someone has written to you or told you?

In this study we're investigating taming our tongues. However, keep in mind that for us we don't just communicate by speech. We also need to tame our writing, emails, Facebook posts and SMS text messages!

STUDY

Read James Chapter 3.

1. Is verse 1 saying nobody should teach others?
Compare this with Colossians 3:16, Titus 2:2-2:5, Matthew 28:19-20
2. Who is James implying shouldn't be teachers?
3. What do you think their teaching might look like?
4. What can we learn about tongues from bits and ships (v3-5)?
5. How is the tongue a fire? (v5-v7)
6. Is verse 8 implying we should give up on taming the tongue?
Can anyone tame it? See Peter 1:22
Who might help us to tame it? See Galatians 5:22-23
7. What is wrong with a Christian having a forked tongue like the one mentioned in v9-v12?

Compare the two types of wisdom:

Earthly Wisdom v14,15,16	Wisdom from above v13,17,18

THINK AND APPLY

Some people say that before speaking you should ask yourself a few questions:

Q1: Is what I'm going to say TRUE?

Q2: does it NEED to be said?

Q3: does it need to be said RIGHT HERE and RIGHT NOW?

Q4: can it be said NICELY?

8. What do you think of the above questions?

9. Are you more likely to speak too much or not enough?

10. In what ways do you struggle to control what you say or write?

11. Are there some conversations you need to start having or words you need to start saying?
(e.g to your wife/husband/children/family/friends/colleagues)
12. Are there some conversations you need to stop having or words you need to stop saying?
13. Is it only your words that make people think you're a Christian?
How are you going at demonstrating that you're living for Christ?

Pray:

- Ask God to forgive us for the times that we've said the wrong things (boasted, slander,)
- Ask God to help us to control what we say
- Praise God for Jesus the perfect man who always controlled his tongue!



**For next week:
Please read
James 4**