

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

JAMES

These questions are for the **July 26, 2015 Sermon**, "Tongue in Cheek." Please read the sermon passage (James 3:1-12) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

WHEN EMPLOYED . . .

1. **Wisely, our tongues can be used to teach people and guide people in the way they should go** (1-4)
 - A. Not many should be teachers (vv 1-2)
 - B. Pointing the way of the wise: note the impact of a small bit and small rudder (3-4)
 - i. We live in a bitless and directionless culture.
 - ii. Wise words steer the way to Jesus Christ.
2. **Unwisely, our tongues can be used to destroy and contradict** (5-12)
 - A. Destruction: consider the animal and the fire (5-8)
 - B. Contradictions: consider nature and water (9-12)
 - i. Identify your own verbal shortcomings. Repent.
 - ii. Review this passage before you spend time with people (social settings, meetings, etc.)
 - iii. Consider how Jesus used words even from the cross.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: In what ways are you growing in verbal wisdom? Which areas still need some work? How will you devote yourself to faithful growth in this area?
2. Based on #1, above: James seems to be teaching us that our works (2:10-26) and our words (3:1-12) should be revealing a steady, faithful transformation into the image of Christ. How does faith in Jesus Christ effect your use and choice of words?
3. Based on #2, above: Do you ever spend time meditating on the Scriptures before you head out to social settings? Committee meetings? Family gatherings? Parent-child conversations? Why or why not? How might this passage change your use of words in the near future?
4. Based on #2, above: Jesus used words which taught the people around him and asked God's forgiveness on the people around him even while he died on the cross. Do your words glorify God even when you face dark situations? When you are mistreated? When you are in pain?