



## **Sermon Discussion Questions**

Sunday, June 12, 2011

Faith Works: Taming the Tongue

James 3: 1-12

Cammie Howard, Children's Ministry Director

### **Read Proverbs 18:21**

Share with the group the most encouraging words that have ever been spoken to you. Who spoke them? Why? What did they say? How did these words give you life? What was going on in your life at that time and why those words were so powerful?

Share with the group a time when very hurtful words were spoken to you. Who spoke them? Why? What did they say? What ways did it feel like death? What was going on in your life at that time and why those words were so hurtful?

Share with the group a time you have spoken very powerful and encouraging words to another? Time you spoke very hurtful words that you would love to take back? Why did you share each?

### **Read James 3:1-12**

What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage and why?

James tells us how powerful the tongue is by using 3 illustrations of small things that cause huge change. What other examples would you use here?

In what ways have you tried to "tame your tongue"? What are things you have done that you have found helpful and what are things you've done that you found have not brought any change?

What does James tell us about our ability to tame the tongue? How does this change your approach to "taming your tongue"?

### **Read Luke 6:45**

How would you define gossip? Without gossiping, see if you can share an example of how you have seen the damage of gossip.

Read the following verses about gossip. Pick one and let the group know which one you will work to memorize between now and the next meeting:

### **Proverbs 20:19; Proverbs 26:22; Proverbs 10:19**

Cammie shared this morning some practical steps we can take to help our words be life givers. As a leader, read each of these to the group to pay attention how they do each of these between now and the next time you meet. Let them know at the beginning of your next meeting you will ask them to share ways they have seen themselves do these well and ways they missed the mark:

- 1) Be slow to speak: James 1:19
- 2) Use a filter: Ephesians 4:29
- 3) Keep short accounts: Matthew 18:22