



## *“Drawing From the Well”*

*“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3*

*Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship*

### **JAMES 3:1-12**

Lesson 8

*“No matter what may be wrong with us physically, when the doctor examines us, he or she often says, ‘stick out your tongue!’*

*This principle applies to the Christian life, for what the tongue does is reveal what the heart contains.*

*Inconsistent speech bears witness to a divided heart, for it is ‘out of the abundance of the heart’ that the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34).*

*‘Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing,’ wrote James.*

*‘My brethren, these things ought not so to be’ (James 3:10).” Warren Wiersbe*

#### **DAY ONE: Review & Overview**

*Note:* Don’t forget to highlight the two or three things that ministered to you each day and then share with your group!

1. What from last week’s study ministered to you the most?
  
2. Recall from last week what genuine faith produces according to **James 2:14-26**.
  - a. The three types of faith are: professing faith, intellectual faith and saving faith. From **James 2:14-26** how can a person know that they have saving faith?
  
3. **James 3:1-18** begins with an exhortation. The rest of the passage uses analogies to describe the power and use of the tongue. Using the following paragraph divisions, prayerfully read **James 3:1-18** and summarize the key message of each segment.
  - a. **James 3:1**
  
  - b. **James 3:2**
  
  - c. **James 3:3-5a**
  
  - d. **James 3:5b-6**
  
  - e. **James 3:7-12**



c. **Ephesians 4:11**

3. Regardless if we are a teacher or not, what do the following verses say about each of us?

a. **Romans 3:23**

b. **James 3:2**

1) How does this help you not to put your trust in man?

2) Instead of man, what should we *look* for or *focus on* according to the following verses?

a) **2 Corinthians 4:18**

b) **Hebrews 12:1-2**

c) **2 Peter 3:13**

*Selah!*

4. With all teaching, what does the Bible call us to do according to the following verses?

a. **1 Thessalonians 5:21**

b. **Acts 17:10-13** (The Berean's)

c. What is it that we use to test teaching?

**Personal:** The tongue stumbles and sins often, stumbles in word after word. Note: “*we all offend*” (stumble, fall, sin). This includes teachers as well as other believers. No believer—no matter how great a teacher he is or who he is—is free from stumbling and falling. In fact, note what the verse says: “In many things” we all stumble. We do not just occasionally fall and sin; we are always coming up short before God (**Romans 3:23**). And this includes all teachers or preachers as well as all other believers. What is the proof of this? The tongue. If you disagree with this, just do self-examination on your own tongue. What does your tongue prove about you? Mark the ones you need prayer for.

<b>Does your tongue prove that you are...</b>	<b>Does your tongue prove that you are NOT...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patient and Longsuffering</li><li>• Kind</li><li>• Rejoicing in truth</li><li>• Believing God in all things</li><li>• Hoping in God in all things</li><li>• Enduring all things for God</li><li>• Bearing all things</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bragging</li><li>• Puffed Up</li><li>• Jealous</li><li>• Rude</li><li>• Provoked</li><li>• Thinking any evil thoughts or any evil thing</li></ul>

5. Using your study tools, do a word study on the following.
  - a. ***Stumble*** or ***Offend*** KJV (#4417)
  - b. ***Perfect*** (#5406)
  
6. In James' description of the perfect man he sets a goal, a challenge, for us to become more Christlike. It should be our goal to not offend or stumble *anyone* through our words or actions. Although this seems like an impossibility, it should be our objective. What does Paul say in the following verses about this subject?
  - a. **Romans 14:21** (*Notice emphasis on anything*).
  - b. **1 Corinthians 8:13** (*speaking of dietary habits*).

***“...I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue;  
I will keep my mouth with a bridle...”Psalm 39:1***

**DAY THREE: James 3:3-6**

1. Prayerfully read **James 3:1-6**. James uses the word *behold* twice in this section. What are we to *behold* (scrutinize intensely)?
2. What two things does James compare the tongue to?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ What is the purpose of this?
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ What is the purpose of this?
3. Look up the following scriptures and comment:
  - a. **Psalm 32:9**
  - b. **Psalm 39:1**
  - c. **Proverbs 12:18**
4. According to **James 3:5a** the tongue is a small thing but can do enormous damage. According to the following scriptures what are some of the destructive things about the tongue?
  - a. **Psalm 10:7**
  - b. **Proverbs 15:1-2**
  - c. **Proverbs 17:9**

- d. **Proverbs 26:28**
5. What are some *beneficial* ways that we can use our tongue according to the following scriptures?
- a. **Proverbs 15:23**
- b. **Isaiah 50:4**
- c. **Ephesians 4:29**
- d. Spend some time in the Word and see what other scriptures you can find about the tongue as it relates to *benefits*.
6. Prayerfully read **Isaiah 6:1-5**. Describe Isaiah's experience and how it affected his knowledge concerning himself and his tongue.
- a. Notice Isaiah's first reaction to the revelation of the holiness of the Lord. How does this speak to you about your tongue?
7. Look up and comment on the following verses. Really allow them to sink deep in your heart for application!
- a. **Ecclesiastes 5:2**
- b. **Luke 6:45**
8. The damage of a fire is not limited to the trees and is not concluded when the fire is extinguished. Raging flames kill birds and animals. Ashes floating on streams kill fish. Human beings lose their lives fighting fires. One cause of forest fires is arson. Arsonists deliberately start fires because of the pleasure it gives them. What kind of people does **Proverbs 26:20-24** describe that could be arsonists by what they say? Use other versions for your answer, if you desire.
9. From the following verses, choose one and share the result of just one lie. (Please read them all and comment on one).
- a. **Genesis 3:4-5**
- b. **Genesis 39:7-20**

c. **1 Kings 21:7-13**

10. How is the tongue described in **James 3:6**?

- a. How is the tongue ignited?
- b. What does this say to you about the origin of gossip, angry words and filthy communication?
- c. For a fire to be kindled, it must have kindling. What does this say about the condition of a heart from which destructive words come?
- d. What happens when God's fire touches our tongue according to **Isaiah 6:6-7**?

*"I will try to walk a blameless path, but how I need Your help,  
especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should."  
Psalm 101:2 TLB*

**DAY FIVE: James 3:7-12**

1. According to **James 3:7-8** what *can* man tame and what can he *not* tame?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Regardless if we are married or not, with any relationship, what is your speech to be like towards others according to the following scriptures?
  - a. **2 Corinthians 8:7**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. **Colossians 4:6**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How can our unruly tongue affect our children?
    - 1) What does **Proverbs 14:1** mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. We should not be a part of circulating rumors, but instead be the one to squelch them. What does **Proverbs 11:13** say the one of a faithful spirit will do?
  - a. Admonishing someone who is gossiping is often awkward and uncomfortable. What have you found to be an effective, non-judgmental way to squelch a conversation that is permeated with gossip? Share with your group!

4. In this section James addresses the contradiction of blessing God and cursing men who are made in His likeness (similitude). James, by using the words *we* and *brethren*, is clearly indicating that he is writing to Christians who are guilty of this. What does he state shouldn't be a part of the Christian's life in **James 3:10**?

*Personal:* Is there anyone you have been harsh with lately? If so, pray for forgiveness and then go to that person, humble yourself and apologize! What freedom will come if we would but humble ourselves!

5. **James 3:11-12** uses analogies from nature to emphasize the point that the Christians should not be speaking both good (blessing) and evil (cursing). It is a law of nature that like produces like. How do these examples follow this law?
- Fountain** (verse 11)
  - Fig tree** (verse 12)
  - Vine** (verse 12)
  - Fountain** (verse 12)
6. Using your study tools look up the following words and record your findings.
- Blessing** (#2129)
  - Cursing** (#2671)
7. There are two streams inside each of us (the Spirit and the flesh), but there is only one opening - the mouth. Only one kind of water can come out of that opening, either sweet or bitter, either a blessing or a curse. What does the Bible instruct us to do to insure that only sweet water come forth according to the following verses?
- Proverbs 15:1**
  - Proverbs 15:28**
  - Proverbs 17:27**
  - Romans 13:14**
  - Ephesians 4:24**
  - Colossians 3:12-17**

