

A Study of James



Week Seven 7 10/19 – 10/25: James 3:1-18

Faith Test: Controlling the Tongue



EQUIP:

- **Watch/ Sing Together:**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rK6O0YtBRY>
("Speak Life" Toby Mac)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anVweXDcxhA>
("Words" Hawk Nelson)
- **Read Together:**
 - Read James 3:1-18, then go over the "Wisdom Checklist"
- **Reading Questions:**
 1. What does it mean "we all stumble in many ways" in regard to the fact that we will all be judged? Can anyone claim to be never at fault in what they say? Why should a teacher, who uses his tongue be careful with their words?
 2. What is common in the three allegories in verses 3-5? Why do people boast and why can't a Bible teacher boast?

3. According to verse 6, what other effect can our words have? (Matt. 12:33-37) Since we can't tame the tongue is there any hope for it to be tamed? (Mark 10:27)
4. What does it mean to curse men and why is this wrong?
5. How is the heart a water spring? Considering all these allegories, what must a good Bible teacher do? (John 15:1-4)
6. Where does wisdom and understanding come from? (Deut. 4:5-8) How does this add to the understanding of verse 13?
7. What is promised to peacemakers? How does Matthew 5:9 add to the truth about peacemakers?

- **Scripture Connections:**

1. Think of the ways you stumble, boast and curse. What causes you to do these things?
2. Examine your heart before the Lord Jesus against verse 14. Where do you stand? How does the world view envy and selfish ambition (v. 15)? What is the truth behind these (v. 16)?
3. How can we know if our words and the words of others are wisdom from God?

- **Pray Together:**

Pray together Galatians 5:22-26.

- **Homework:**

1. This week we heard about the power and influence our words can have for the good or the bad. Fortunately for us, God has given us countless references throughout the Bible to help us understand how to use our words to be productive instead of destructive. Read each of the references in Proverbs below and jot down what each one says about the power of our words.

**Proverbs 10:19, Proverbs 11:12, Proverbs 12:6, Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 12:25
Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 15:2, Proverbs 15:23, Proverbs 15:26, Proverbs 16:24
Proverbs 17:4, Proverbs 17:5, Proverbs 18:4, Proverbs 18:21, Proverbs 21:6
Proverbs 22:10, Proverbs 23:9, Proverbs 26:20, Proverbs 26:28**

2. Looking back at what you wrote above, pick out seven verses that are important for you to remember. Take a moment and pray through each verse asking God to help you put it into practice.

3. Bonus Suggestion: Assign one of your seven verses to each day of the following week. Figure out how you'll remind yourself to read it that day at least once (reminder ideas – post it on the bathroom mirror, calendar reminder, etc). Say a quick prayer after you read it and ask God to help you put it into action.

4. This week we are going to take an in-depth look at a biblical example of a wise response in action. Abigail was a person who understood the importance attitude plays when it comes to responding wisely; and she put it into practice. She was the wife of a fool named Nabal who initiated a life-threatening conflict with David (of Goliath fame) when he responded disrespectfully David's hospitality and generosity. The story of her wise response in action is found in 1 Samuel 25. After reading the chapter, answer the questions below:

- A. What do you think is most impressive about Abigail's attitude or actions associated with this conflict between David and her husband Nabal?
- B. If Abigail had not responded with such a wise attitude, how do you think David's response to Abigail, after Nabal's death, would have differed?
- C. Look back over the "Wisdom Checklist" on your sermon note sheet. Which of the traits listed do you notice coming into play in this story:
 - a. In Abigail's response?
 - b. In David's initial response?
 - c. In David's ultimate response?
- D. Of course, the entire conflict could have easily been avoided if Nabal had been careful with his attitude toward David. Which of the traits on the "Wisdom Checklist" do you notice Nabal disregarding in his response to David's men?
- E. Which of the traits on the "Wisdom Checklist" do you think you disregard most often? What steps could you take to be more mindful of those traits this week?

A Wisdom Checklist (Answers)

- (1) Am I **PURE** in my motives and actions?
Matthew 7:1-5/ James 1:27 & James 3:1/ Proverbs 9:10
- (2) Am I looking for **COMMON GROUND**?
Matthew 5:9/ Proverbs 17:19 & Proverbs 10:12
- (3) Am I **RESPECTFUL**?
Proverbs 16:21/ Daniel 1-6/ 2 Timothy 2:14-26/ Proverbs 11:12
- (4) Am I **TEACHABLE**?
James 1:19/ Proverbs 12:1/ Proverbs 18:2
- (5) Am I **MERCIFUL**?
1 Corinthians 13:5/ James 2:13/ Matthew 5:7 & Matthew 18:21-35
- (6) Am I producing good **FRUIT** or just stirring up **CONFLICT**?
Proverbs 9:7-8/ James 3:18/ Proverbs 16:26/ Proverbs 17:9
- (7) Am I **FAIR**?
James 2:1/ Leviticus 19:15/ Exodus 23:3

- (8) Do I **WALK** my **TALK**?
Matthew 7:1-5/ 1 John 1:6/ Proverbs 11:3

A Wisdom Checklist

- (1) Am I _____ in my motives and actions?
Matthew 7:1-5/ James 1:27 & James 3:1/ Proverbs 9:10
- (2) Am I looking for _____?
Matthew 5:9/ Proverbs 17:19 & Proverbs 10:12
- (3) Am I _____?
Proverbs 16:21/ Daniel 1-6/ 2 Timothy 2:14-26/ Proverbs 11:12
- (4) Am I _____?
James 1:19/ Proverbs 12:1/ Proverbs 18:2
- (5) Am I _____?
1 Corinthians 13:5/ James 2:13/ Matthew 5:7 & Matthew 18:21-35
- (6) Am I producing good _____ or just stirring up _____?
Proverbs 9:7-8/ James 3:18/ Proverbs 16:26/ Proverbs 17:9
- (7) Am I _____?
James 2:1/ Leviticus 19:15/ Exodus 23:3
- (8) Do I _____ my _____?
Matthew 7:1-5/ 1 John 1:6/ Proverbs 11:3