



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2010

BIG IDEA:

The tongue is small and mostly hidden from sight. But it can (and does) affect the entire course of your life. This series focuses on James 3:2-6 which says that "those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way." This week we're talking about "words that bite" and the problems that come with them.

DISCUSSION:

Read James 3:7-12 Together. What is the difference between a snake and our tongue when it comes to the ability to inflict pain and inject poison?

You can tame a snake. You can de-fang it. You can remove both the sting of its bite and the potency of its poison. You can make a snake into nothing more than a baby's toy.

You cannot tame the tongue. It will always have its bite. It will always have the power to sting. It will always have the poison to kill.

We have all been victims of "words that bite". What have you been called that stung or poisoned your life? What are you afraid to be called?

We are all guilty of using "words that bite". What words have you used? Who have you torn down? Enemies? Friends? Family? Innocent by-standers?

Are "words that bite" always a problem? Shouldn't people have thicker skin and not take things so seriously? Don't some people deserve it?

Look back at James 3:7-9 and also look up Matthew 12:35-37. What are two big reasons why "words that bite" are always a problem?

*"Words that bite" are an insult to God. James 3:7-9
We will be judged by our words. Matthew 12:35-27*

APPLICATION:

What specific things can we do about "words that bite"? How can we grow in this area? Look up James 3:10-12, Ephesians 4:29, and Proverbs 10:19 for ideas.

- 1. Start with Your Heart. James 3:10-12*
- 2. Practice the positive. Ephesians 4:29*
- 3. If you don't have anything nice to say...Proverbs 10:19*

GROUP EXERCISE:

Let's try a possibly awkward exercise to apply this lesson with this group. Let's take some time to go around and say encouraging things to each other. There is no order...just pick someone and tell them something positive that you've noticed about them. It can be anything as long as it is encouraging.

Leave time for this and encourage everyone to participate.

MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 21:23

He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.