

In Part 4 of “James: Back to the Basics”, we walked through James 3:1-18. Spend some time answering these questions as we dig deeper into this week’s message!

Getting to Know You:

1. What is your favorite activity to do on your own, or with your family, during the Fall season?
2. What is your favorite kind of candy? What is your least favorite and why?

Digging Deeper:

1. What are some examples that you have witnessed, or experienced, of words being used in a positive way? What about in a negative way?
2. Read James 3:1-5. James uses the illustrations of a bit in the mouth of a horse, and a small rudder that steers a ship. What is James telling us about the power of the tongue with these illustrations?
3. The wind in verse 4 can be understood as the trials and temptations we face in life. How can trials and temptations influence our speech? What can we do to guard against letting trials and temptations dictate what we say?
4. James 3:5-7 deals with the destruction that the tongue is capable of. Why do you think James compares our speech to a “tiny spark”? Read Proverbs 13:3 for more insight.
5. Pastor Jesse discussed what it means when James says the tongue “is set on fire by hell itself”. In your own words, how would you summarize the meaning of this statement?
6. Read James 3:9-12. After reading this verse, what do you believe James is telling us about how our speech is connected to the condition of our hearts? Read Luke 6:45 to go deeper.
7. In James 3:13-18, James continues discussing the condition of the heart and also “wisdom from above”. How does this section of verses relate to our conversation about our speech?
8. James 3:18 says “And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.” How can you use your speech to plant seeds of peace

Making it Personal:

1. Honestly reflect on the impact your speech has had on others around you - is it primarily positive or negative?
2. If the impact of your speech has had a negative impact on others, ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart. What in your heart needs to change?

3. Identify one relationship in your life that is broken or struggling - how can you use your speech as seeds of peace?
- 4.