

Text Study & Group Discussion Questions

James 3:1-12 (NIV)

August 22, 2026

What Does the Text Say?

Verse 1: Why does James warn that not many people should become teachers?

Group discussion question

How does knowing that God judges our public and online words more strictly change how you post, comment, or share information?

Verse 2: What does James say about a person who never faults in what they say?

Group discussion question

Why do you think God chose our *speech* as the ultimate indicator of our spiritual maturity, rather than our church attendance or Bible knowledge?

Verses 3–4: What two specific everyday objects does James use to illustrate how small things control large objects?

Group discussion question

If someone audited your speech, social media posts, and text messages from the past week, who would they say is piloting your ship—the peace of the Holy Spirit, or the chaos of current events?

Verses 5–6: How does James describe the tongue's potential for destruction in these verses?

Group discussion question

What are some examples of "little sparks" in daily life (e.g., at the office, in a marriage, family, or in a friend group) that people often think are harmless but can easily explode into a massive conflict?

Verses 7–8: According to the text, what can humans tame, and what can they *not* tame?

Group discussion question

Since Jesus said the mouth speaks what the heart is full of, what are some practical ways we can evaluate what is currently filling our hearts based on our speech this week?

Verses 9–12: What contrasting or contradictory behaviors of the tongue does James point out using examples from nature (springs, fig trees, grapevines)?

Group discussion question

James reminds us that every human is made in the image of God. How would your daily conversations (with difficult coworkers, frustrating family members, or politicians you disagree with) change if you forced yourself to see God's reflection in them before speaking?

If your words from this past week were a water source, would people describe them as a refreshing spring that brings life, or a salty well that leaves a bad taste? Why?
