

## **SESSION FOUR: THE PRESSURE OF WORDS**

**The Point:** Fuel your words with wisdom and gentleness

**The Passage:** James 3:1-18

**The Setting:** James addressed the great impact a believer's speech can have on others. He calls us to a life of consistent speech, and to seek the wisdom that only comes from God.

Section One: Answer these questions in your group:

**Q1: What are the 3 word pictures James uses to illustrate the power of words?**

**Q2: How have you seen words act like fire or poison?**

**Q3: What are some "acceptable" forms of negative speech in today's culture?**

Section Two: Answer these questions in your group:

**Q4: What two examples from nature does James use to explain inconsistency?**

**Q5: How is inconsistent speech and attitude harmful and to whom?**

Section Three: Answer these questions in your group:

**Q6: How do our words define who we are?**

**Q7: Do you agree with this statement: "Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."? Why or why not?**

**Q3: When has your life been changed by wise and gentle words?**

**THERE IS HOPE!!! Our tongue CAN be tamed, our attitudes CAN be changed, and we CAN develop the wisdom of God!**

1. Repent to the Lord when our words/attitudes are not Christ like. Don't allow your pride to prevent you from starting over.
2. Pray...allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart for the underlying emotions which lead to un-Godly speech. Be willing to get professional counseling if a pattern of unhealthy and un-Godly speech and attitudes are destroying your life.
3. Apologize if your words have been un-Godly. "I am sorry" will build a bridge.
4. Fill your heart and mind with God's Word. This will give guidance about how to live like Jesus, and will replace the OLD man with the NEW.  
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4. Think before you speak: James 1:19 (THE VOICE)  
"Listen, open your ears, harness your desire to speak, and don't get worked up into a rage so easily, my brothers and sisters."
5. Ask God for His Wisdom: James 1:5 (THE VOICE)  
**If you don't have all the wisdom needed *for this journey*, then all you have to do is ask God for it; and God will grant all that you need. He gives lavishly and never scolds you for asking.**