# IN TRUTH James



## Wisdom from God

MEMORY VERSE: "Take control of what I say, O Lord, and guard my lips." Psalm 141:3

### DAY 1

JAMES 3:1-5 — Control of the Tongue

- 1. Read verses 1-2. In what way is verse 2 related to verse 1 on teachers? Why do you think those who teach will be "judged more strictly"?
- 2. What did James acknowledge about all of us? v. 2
- 3. What illustrations did James use to describe the power of the tongue?

  this little thing controls this big thing
  - v. 3
  - v. 4
  - v. 5b
- 4. How could your words be powerful enough to: Poison a relationship?

Help someone who is struggling?



JAMES 3:6-12 — Power of the Tongue

5. What do verses 6-8 say about the nature and power of the tongue?

6. What we say shows the condition of our sinful hearts. Where does help come from to change our hearts and words? Refer to Psalm 51:10; Ephesians 3:16-17; Romans 8:26a.
7. What good and what evil things come out of the same mouth? vv. 9-10
8. Why is it so important to the world that we believers control our tongues? Refer to 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.
DAY 3 JAMES 3:13-17 — Two Kinds of Wisdom
9. What does James tell us to do if we are wise and understand God's ways? v. 13
10. James tells us that there are two different sets of wisdom because the assumptions about life we base our decisions on are different: wordly wisdom and heavenly wisdom. How does wisdom from the world show itself in people? vv. 14-15
What does this wisdom lead to? v. 16
11. What is heavenly wisdom like? v. 17
12. How can you fill yourself up with heavenly wisdom?  James 1:5-8
Proverbs 2:1-15

### DAY 4 JAMES 3:18 — Plant Seeds of Peace

- 13. What are the results of exercising heavenly wisdom?
- 14. How do peacemakers: Bring glory to God?

Bring blessings and joy to others?

### DAY 5 JAMES 3 — Wrap Up

15. Consider your words over the past week. What % were positive? What % were negative? What are some practical ways you can reduce your negative words?

What are some practical ways that you can use your words for good?

16. When you need wisdom, where do you go? Why?
What's one way you've seen God's wisdom proved true in your life?

#### TAKE AWAY

We have more of a tendency to sin/stumble with our words when we are hungry, angry, lonely, and tired - HALT! This week remember to HALT!

#### BLESSING

We need God's wisdom to discern the truth and to stand up for it in a world growing far away from God. Be a Christ follower who lives out their beliefs in this world!

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The root problem with our tongue is our sinful heart. We must let the Holy Spirit renew and clean our hearts every day.

Words, once spoken, cannot be unsaid. Kids on playgrounds like to say, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." But the saying cannot be further from the truth. Words can hurt. They do hurt. We all remember times when people have spoken hurtful things to us, and that hurt may still be there.

Commit to praying daily for your words this week.

James tells us that there are two different sets of wisdom because the assumptions about life we base our decisions on are different. Different beliefs lead to radically different conclusions.

Do you want to make decisions with "earthly, unspiritual, demonic" wisdom? The one who follows worldly wisdom is doing exactly that. We must instead critically evaluate every decision we make and most importantly evaluate our lives to see if they are in line with our beliefs.

Notes