



# inside out

A SERMON SERIES IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

## MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 8 – WATCH YOUR MOUTH!

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup>We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

<sup>3</sup>When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup>Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

<sup>5</sup>Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. <sup>6</sup>The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

<sup>7</sup>All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

<sup>9</sup>With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup>Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

<sup>11</sup>Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup>My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

– James 3:1-12 (NIV)

### WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

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An \_\_\_\_\_ reflects a \_\_\_\_\_

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## **CONTROLLING YOUR TONGUE**

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- \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ your words can have
- \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_
- Choose to \_\_\_\_\_ with your words
- Keep a \_\_\_\_\_ on your tongue
- Restrain your \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

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## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

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1. Why do words have so much power?
2. Tell of a time when you should have held your tongue.
3. Tell of a time in your life when what someone said to you or about you had a lasting impact (good or bad) upon your life.
4. Read James 3:2. How can controlling the tongue lead to greater self-control in other parts of your life?
5. James uses three illustrations (horses, ships, and fire) in verses 3-6. What is the relationship between each one of these and your tongue?
6. What is the connection between our hearts (internal) and our words (external)?
7. How might the way you speak reveal your inner character?
8. Why is the tongue so difficult to control?
9. How can worship restrain our words?
10. If you knew that your words were being recorded, then how might it affect what you say?
11. How can you speak life into someone this week?