

White Rock Community Church

November 21, 2021 Sermon Bible Study Guide

Discipleship is more than learning Bible knowledge; it is thoughtfully applying Bible truths to our lives, and becoming equipped to introduce others to a personal, saving relationship with Jesus. Individually, or in a group we read, discuss and apply Bible passages to our lives so that we are equipped to care for others, pray and encourage others' spiritual growth. We learn to demonstrate patience, respect, love and humility as we encourage each other to serve God and others. Each of us needs to ensure safety and confidentiality.

Questions to start the study:

- What are you thankful for today?
- What difficulties or challenges have you had this past week?
 - Is there someone or something you are concerned about?
- Is there a way others could help you or the person/situation you are concerned about?
- How did it go as you worked to apply the Bible study and discussion from last week to your life?
- Who did you share your faith with last week or talk with about the Bible study?

Prayer: ACTS

- **Adore** the Triune God, praise God for his goodness and strength;
- **Confess** our sins, our needs, our challenges in maturing spiritually, in sharing our faith with others, in using our spiritual gifts to minister to others, in truly loving others as God loves them;
- express our **Thanksgiving** for God's goodness and guidance;
- pray in **Supplication** for needs, for people to connect with God in a personal, saving relationship, and for each of us to deepen our relationship with God and allow the Holy Spirit to work through our lives.

Bible Passage – James 3:1-12

Bible Reflections and Discussion

- Read or retell the passage in our own words.
- What do these verses teach us about God and others? What is God saying to me through the passage?

Inductive Bible Study: Observations, Interpretations, Application

1. James 3:3-8

<p><i>Talk about the power of the tongue illustrated in the examples from these verses.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -horses/bits -ships/rudders -wildfire/spark -evil fire from hell/tongue 	<p>V 8 ...no man can tame the tongue. <i>Is this the end of the story? Is there no possibility for improvement? Praise God! The triune God can give us the power to tame our tongues. If we tap into God's power, the Holy Spirit can be our guide, our rudder, our bit in the mouth to tame our tongues. God's power can give us the strength to bless/speak positively:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>-to ourselves</i> <i>-to others</i> <i>-about others.</i> <p><i>Share the challenges you have with one or more of these uses of the tongue. How does the Holy Spirit want to help you with these challenges?</i></p>
<p><i>Which steps is God calling you to take related to using your tongue to serve others?</i></p>	

2. James 3:9-12

<p>Focus on verse 10. <i>Review the EXAMEN steps on page 2 as you reflect on words you have said recently.</i></p>	<p><i>Reflect on verses 11-12.</i></p>
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Describe the actions we as individuals, a small group, our church body could do to better demonstrate the Holy Spirit through our words.

3. James 3:1-2

Of course, we are not perfect. God understands this about us. That's why we have his forgiveness, continued mercy and his Holy Spirit. We find it difficult to keep our tongues in check. Pastor Steve listed some recommendations in his sermon to help us:

- Talk to yourself in an encouraging way to build yourself up; you are God's child. Your positive self-talk can improve your outlook so you are less critical about others.
- Ensure what comes out of our mouths is encouraging to others.
- We have one mouth and two ears. Listen twice as much and carefully before we speak.
- When we are upset, ready to gossip or criticize, talk/listen first to God about these negative thoughts and maybe we will not blast someone else. Pastor Steve's advice: go for a walk first and practice saying what you want to say in an uplifting way.
- If we say something unkind, apologize and make it right quickly.
- Remember the "annoying" people are made in God's image; he loves them as much as he loves you.
- Teachers and everyone: be thoughtful and careful about the impact of our words on people.

Choose two of the above points which are the most meaningful to you and share with others.

4. James 2-3

God calls us to...	Pastor Steve's encouragements for us. Be consistently in God's presence to be filled up by his Spirit so that we can ...
-reflect God's glory everywhere: our words, our actions, our lives, our church body, our role in society.	Be in God's presence; be filled with his Spirit, saturated. Speak kindly to others. Sacrificially serve those in need, readily and kindly welcome the poor, the helpless, the marginalized people of our world. What are my required actions in order to reflect God's glory to those around me in all the contexts of my life?

5 . God wants to be with us! He loves us and wants to hear from us.

Spiritual rhythms to help you know God's view: -know what the Bible says; pay attention to Jesus' words/actions -spend time with God in prayer and meditation to listen to him and his will for you and to ask him for help -allow God to transform you and bring you to spiritual and emotional maturity; allow the Holy Spirit to fill you daily and guide you -spend time with other Christians who urge you toward spiritual growth -love and serve God and others	EXAMEN Daily Reflection Recognize your blessings. Request the Holy Spirit to Reveal what you need to see. Replay your day. Repent for where you fell short. Resolve , in concrete action steps, to do better tomorrow by allowing the power of God's Holy Spirit to work through you.
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Core Truth Verse - What is the Core Truth verse from this passage?

What does God want me to do because of what I have learned today?

I will _____

Who will I share these spiritual truths with this week? _____

Benediction: ...Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit. Proverbs 15:4