

SC Church 2.22.2026

Finding Community  
Building Up our Community

- A. Intro: What are the words that have lifted you up?
- B. Big Idea: God wants to use our words to bring hope and healing.
- C. Scripture: James 3:1-6 NLT – Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. <sup>3</sup> We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. <sup>4</sup> And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.
- D. Why are words so important?
- a. Words can Hurt
    - i. James 3:5-6 NLT – <sup>5</sup> In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.
  - b. Words give Direction
    - i. James 3:3-4 NLT – <sup>3</sup> We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. <sup>4</sup> And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong.
    - ii. Proverbs 12:26 NLT – <sup>26</sup> The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.
  - c. Words give Healing and Hope
    - i. Romans 8:28 NLT – <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
    - ii. Proverbs 12:18 NLT – <sup>18</sup> Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.
    - iii. Proverbs 18:21 NLT – <sup>21</sup> The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

- iv. James 3:17-18 NLT – <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. <sup>18</sup> And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

E. Getting Practical - How do we Build Up our Community?

- a. Speak Life
- b. Direct to the Truth
  - i. Ephesians 2:10 NLT – <sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
- c. Correct in Love

F. Close: Who can you breathe life into this week?

- a. Next Steps
  - i. Memorize: Proverbs 12:18 NLT – <sup>18</sup> Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.
  - ii. Think: Are my words hurtful or full of healing and hope?
  - iii. Action: Breathe life into who God puts in front of you this week.