



ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- What is one of your best known bloopers or foot-in-mouth moments?
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

1. "Stick and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." We can quote this until we're blue in the face, but the reality is that words can hurt.
 - How do we hurt others with our words?
 - How has social media impacted our culture when it comes to the things we say?
2. Read Ephesians 4:29.
 - What constitutes "unwholesome [lit. *rotten*] talk"?
 - Which do you think is worse: gossip, swearing, lying, slander, or arguing?
3. Read Proverbs 18:21 and Matthew 12:36-37.
 - Knowing the impact that our words can have on others and on ourselves, why don't we pay more attention to what we say?
4. Read James 3:1-8.
 - Why is a more strict judgment placed upon teachers? How does this warning relate to taming the tongue?
 - What do the three illustrations here (horse's bit, ship's rudder, fire's spark) each reveal about the tongue's power?
 - Verse 8 says "no man can tame the tongue." That doesn't mean we shouldn't try. What is the best advice you can give to help someone tame their tongue?
5. Read James 3:9-12.
 - What advice does James give us to control the tongue? What is James saying about the source (vv.11-12)?
 - Read Proverbs 4:23 and Luke 6:45. Since words come from the heart, what is the best way to change our words?
6. Read James 1:19-20
 - Illustrate what it means to be "quick to listen."
 - How does this produce the "righteous life that God desires"?



EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 10-15 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

Phil said, “You can change your world by changing your words.”

- How can your home and/or workplace change by you changing your words?

Your challenge this week is to make a positive impact on those around you by using words of encouragement and praise.

Prayer:

Take some time to pray over each group member’s identified action steps and life issues.

Equip Your Mind:

“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14, NLT)