

Small Group/Sermon Notes for James Part 6: The Power of Words

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **James Part 6: The Power of Words**
- Your words are powerful. Don't underestimate that. **Proverbs 18:20-21**
 - How have you experience the power of words, but good and bad?
- Believers are responsible to us words wisely. Otherwise we get **James 1:26**.
 - What is a "tight rein?"
 - What is the deception that this type of person falls into?
- Jesus takes our words seriously. **Matthew 12:33-37**
 - Did you know our words were so important?
 - Maybe you are a "talk is cheap" kind of person.
 - That's true too! **Matthew 21:28-31**
 - How do we contrast "talk is cheap" and "The Power of Words"?
- **James 3:1-12**
 - How does someone "presume" to be a teacher?
 - Look at the power James gives a teacher's words! What are the analogies he used?
 - **James 3:9-12** describes "attitude" hypocrites. Have you seen that? Have you been that?
- 3 more ways we can err in our speaking from James. What are the consequences of each?
 - Slander. **James 4:11-12, James 5:9**
 - Presumption. **James 4:13-16**
 - Deception. **James 5:12** (No Minnesota maybe and then apologize. Keep your word!)
- Discuss the following things relating to speaking:
 - Again, your words are powerful. Don't underestimate that.
 - Speaking the truth in love is the greatest power for good you can have.
 - Not quite true or not quite in love causes your words to either lose power or become destructive.
 - You don't just speak to others, you speak to yourself too.
 - Speak the truth in love to yourself or you will believe lies.
 - Whose word is most powerful: yours, someone else's, or God's?
 - To you, it is the one that you believe.
 - Please, one loved by God, believe the one that is actually true!
 - Next level is speaking in faith.
 - Like "sticks and stones" but quote Scripture in faith.
 - True in the spirit but hasn't come to pass yet. Possible examples:
 - **Romans 8:35-39** (nothing can separate)
 - **1 Corinthians 12:27** (you are the Body)
 - **Philippians 4:6-7** (do not be anxious)
 - Last big thing: truth only comes into you if you listen wisely.
 - Our culture is messed up because we aren't good at valuing and listening to those who oppose us or disagree with us.
 - I'm not saying you have to agree, just listen wisely. What's the difference?
 - **James 1:19-21**.
 - It's good to listen to people. Hear them. Care about them. Find the truth.
 - It's essential that we listen to the Lord.
 - We don't get to just make up whatever truth we like.
 - Let's listen to the Lord for a little bit. Listen wisely. Believe the truth!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!