



# Group Leader Guide - Week 3

## Sermon Recap

Zach reflects on the power of words and the importance of intentionality in communication. He emphasizes that the intent behind our words often does not matter compared to their actual impact, as words can shape relationships and self-perception. Using James 3, he discusses the dangers of careless speech and the necessity of speaking with care, as it reflects one's spiritual maturity. He then encourages listeners to actively use their words for good, acknowledge the responsibility that comes with their speech, and consider the potential ripple effects of their words on others' lives.

## Ice Breaker

If you had to choose one meal to eat for the rest of your life, but it could only be in the form of a sandwich, what would it be and why?

## Discussion Questions

- ▶ How can we apply the idea that 'intent is usually irrelevant' when we communicate with others?
- ▶ What role do you think verbal affirmations play in strengthening our relationships according to the sermon?
- ▶ Why do you think Zach stresses that our words can have a lasting impact on those around us?

# Read Scripture

## *James 3:1-12 NIV*

<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.

## Discussion Questions

- ▶ What insights can we gain from James 3 about the power of the tongue and how it relates to spiritual maturity?
- ▶ How can we balance speaking up about important issues while also being sensitive to how our words might affect others?

## Prayer

- Pray for the ability to apply the lessons from the sermon to our daily lives this week.
- Ask for guidance and strength to overcome any challenges faced in putting these lessons into practice.
- Pray for the unity and support within the group as we encourage one another.

# Rewatch the sermon

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