

Stronger After Discussion Guide

Week 4: “Powerful Words, Powerful Parenting”

Scripture: James 3:1-12



Let's Connect with Each Other:

Take a few minutes and catch up. You can use the following questions to do so, or come up with questions of your own.

- Take a moment and share your favorite “Corona indulgence.” Something interesting or fun you’ve enjoyed doing the past few weeks that you might not ordinarily give yourself permission to do. (Ex: *binge watching a favorite show, a favorite snack, baking.. a lot, projects around the home, reading an entire book in one week, long leisurely walks, etc.*)
- Hopefully it’s been a good week for us all. What were some of the highs and lows of this past week?

Let's Connect with the Word:

1. Take a moment and sound off with some of the big ideas from last week. (James 2:1-18)
2. Have someone in the group read this week’s text. (James 3:1-12) We’ve printed it below to make this easy.
3. What is the big idea in verse 1? Why is James so interested in who would choose or be chosen to teach in the church community?
4. Because it’s Mother’s Day the message focused on parenting as one of the most important teaching roles in a person’s life. What other spheres of life might this passage apply to?
5. Who have been some of the most important “teachers” in your life?
6. Looking back over verses 2-5, what is the key idea of this portion of James’ letter?
7. How does the example of bits in horses mouths or the rudder of a boat or a spark starting a fire relate to the key idea?
8. Which of these three illustrations is most helpful to you? How so?
9. One thing James is clear to point out is that we all struggle to use our mouth well. Are there times you would be willing to share when you were proud of what came out of your mouth? Are there times when you have needed to apologize for what you had said?

Let's Connect it to Life:

10. Have you ever taken a big long drink of salt water? Yum. What senses are engaged as you read James contrast praise and curses or salt or fresh water in verses 10-12? Are they helpful in naming a challenge you face?

11. James is very passionate and direct in this passage. What does that tell us about how important it is to address harmful words?

12. What in this passage do you find encouraging?

14. How is all of this crucial if we are to be Stronger After?

13. How can we best come alongside you as a group over the next few weeks?

Close with a short prayer...

Next Week: We'll be talking about the supremely significant role of wisdom in our journey with God.

James 3:1-12 English Standard Version

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2** For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. **4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life,^[a] and set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. **10** From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers,^[c] these things ought not to be so. **11** Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.