**Grace Assembly of God Church Notes**

The Book of James- Practical Christian Living

The Book of James is a letter which provides a **practical guide for believers** to live out their **life of faith every day.**

**Week-Wise Overview - Modules**

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| **WEEK 1**  **James Chapter 1 - Living Out Faith** | **WEEK 2**  **James Chapter 2 - Faith in Action** |
| **WEEK 3**  **James Chapter 3 - Taming the Tongue** | **WEEK 4**  **James Chapter 4 - Submitting to God** |

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| **WEEK 5**  **James Chapter 5 – Patience in Suffering** |

**James Chapter Chapter 3 - Taming the Tongue**

**James Chapter 3** emphasizes the immense power of the tongue and the importance of controlling it to lead a righteous life. It also distinguishes between earthly wisdom, characterized by jealousy and selfish ambition, and godly wisdom, characterized by purity, peace, and gentleness. Applying these teachings involves being mindful of our speech and actions, striving to reflect godly wisdom in our daily lives.

**Questions that will be answered through today’s Bible Study**

1. How does James describe the power of the tongue, and why is it important to control it?
2. Why is the tongue so hard to control, and what can happen if we don’t control it?
3. What does James say about using the tongue to both praise God and curse people, and why is this a problem?
4. What are the differences between earthly wisdom and godly wisdom, and how do they show up in our actions and attitudes?
5. How can we show true wisdom in our lives, and what good things come from living this way?

**Key Points and its Explanation**

**Controlling the Tongue**

**Verses 1-2**

* **Comprehension:**
  + James warns that not many should become teachers because teachers will be judged more strictly. He acknowledges that everyone makes mistakes but emphasizes the importance of controlling the tongue.
* **Interpretation:**
  + Teaching holds great responsibility because of the influence on others, and controlling one’s speech is essential for living a righteous life.
* **Application:**
  + Be mindful of the responsibility of influencing others and strive to control your speech.

**Verses 3-5**

* **Comprehension:**
  + James uses metaphors to illustrate the power of the tongue: a bit in a horse’s mouth, a rudder on a ship, and a small spark that can start a great forest fire.
* **Interpretation**:
  + Small things can have great power, and the tongue, though small, can steer the direction of a person’s life.
* **Application:**
  + Recognize the power of your words and use them to build up and encourage rather than harm.

**Verses 6-8**

* **Comprehension:**
  + The tongue is described as a flame of fire, a source of evil capable of corrupting the whole body and setting one's life on fire. It is difficult to tame and full of deadly poison.
* **Interpretation:**
  + The tongue has a natural propensity toward evil and can cause widespread destruction if not controlled.
* **Application:**
  + Make a conscious effort to tame your tongue by avoiding gossip, lies, and harsh words.

**Verses 9-12**

* Comprehension:
  + The tongue can both praise God and curse people made in God’s image, which James highlights as contradictory and wrong. He uses further metaphors: a spring cannot produce both fresh and bitter water, and a fig tree cannot bear olives.
* Interpretation:
  + Consistency in speech is important; it’s contradictory to praise God while cursing others.
* Application:
  + Practice consistency in your speech, ensuring that your words reflect your faith and values.

**True Wisdom Comes from God**

**Verse 13**

* **Comprehension:**
  + Wisdom and understanding should be demonstrated by living an honourable life with good works done in humility.
* **Interpretation:**
  + True wisdom is evident in a person’s behaviour and humility.
* **Application:**
  + Strive to live a life that reflects God’s wisdom through honourable actions and humility.

**Verses 14-16**

* **Comprehension:**
  + Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition are contrasted with God’s wisdom, which does not involve boasting or lying. Such negative traits lead to disorder and evil.
* **Interpretation:**
  + Jealousy and selfishness are signs of earthly, unspiritual, and demonic wisdom, leading to chaos and wrongdoing.
* **Application:**
  + Avoid jealousy and selfish ambition, recognizing these traits as harmful and contrary to God’s wisdom.

**Verses 17-18**

* **Comprehension:**
  + God’s wisdom is pure, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, impartial, and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace will reap righteousness.
* **Interpretation:**
  + Godly wisdom manifests in purity, peace, gentleness, mercy, and sincerity, producing righteousness and peace.
* **Application:**
  + Seek and practice wisdom that promotes peace, gentleness, and sincerity in your interactions with others.

**Task based on Chapter 3**

**Reflection on the Power of the Tongue**

Task:

* Identify a Situation: Reflect on a recent instance where your words had a significant impact. Consider both positive and negative effects of your speech in that situation.
* Write Down Thoughts: Document your reflections:
  + How did your speech influence the outcome?
  + What emotions or motivations were involved?
  + How does this reflect the teachings in James 3:5-6 about the power of the tongue?
* Plan for Change: Develop a plan to improve your communication. Set specific goals for how you will use your words more constructively and identify practical steps to achieve this.

**Guess the story: Power of Speech**

Will explain it on the day of the Bible Study. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 18:21** states that “The tongue has the power of life and death.”

~ Speaking **positive affirmations rooted in Scripture** helps us choose words that bring life, encouragement, and hope.

* I speak words that build up and encourage others
* I have the power to control my tongue and use it for good.
* My words reflect my faith and values consistently.
* I seek and practice godly wisdom in all my decisions.
* I demonstrate my wisdom through humble actions and good deeds.
* I avoid jealousy and selfish ambition, embracing peace and gentleness.
* I am a peacemaker, sowing seeds of peace and reaping righteousness.
* My tongue is tamed, and my words are full of kindness and truth.
* I use my speech to praise God and bless others, avoiding negative talk.
* I choose purity, mercy, and sincerity in all my interactions.