

TO GO

1. Describe an instance where something you said became a big issue, whether for you personally or for someone else.
2. Read James 3:1. Why does James single out teachers as he begins his conversation on the power of the tongue? What kind of influence can teachers have with what they say?
3. Read James 3:2. Why is it important to remember that we all stumble? Why does James distinguish a “perfect” person as someone who is able to avoid stumbling in what they say?
4. Read James 3:3–5. What three illustrations does James employ for demonstrating the power of the tongue? Given these illustrations, what must be true for people to use their tongues in God-honoring and not destructive ways?
5. Read James 3:6. What is the relationship between hell and the tongue? Why might the tongue be such a significant part of Satan’s strategy to lead the world into unrighteousness?
6. Read James 3:7–8. What does James mean that no human being can tame the tongue? If this is true, then what hope is there for humans who struggle with their speech?
7. Read James 3:9–12. Why ought it not be that the tongue is used for cursing and blessing at the same time? What metaphors does James supply to demonstrate this truth? Why do you think he chooses these metaphors?
8. In what ways do you or people you know tend to use the tongue for harm? In what ways can it be used for good? Reflect on your usage of the tongue. Ask God for forgiveness for those times when you have used your tongue for ill and for the grace and self-control to use your tongue for good in all things.