



THE TAMING OF THE TONGUE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 3:3-12

1 **If you ask most teenagers about what hurts the most in their relationships, they would probably tell you—when someone makes fun of me, when someone mocks me, when someone makes me feel stupid, when someone yells at me, when someone is mean or sarcastic to me, when someone is angry with me, when someone gossips about me, or when someone reveals my secrets.** What “slender portion of flesh” (Calvin) is involved in all these hurtful scenarios? How does James describe the evils of the human tongue in James 3:2-12?

2 **Have you ever been confronted by a Christian about your speech?** Describe this confrontation. Have you ever confronted another Christian about their speech? Describe this confrontation.

 What is at stake when a Christian’s tongue is out of control? Circle the following possibilities: the unity or health of an entire community of believers (church or family), the testimony of believers, the testimony of Christ.

 Describe how you have seen the tongue destroy a relationship or a testimony.

3 **How is a tongue like a horse’s bit or a ship’s rudder (3:2-5)?** Is it difficult to get a bit in a horse’s mouth? How difficult is it to control your own tongue?

4 **There is an old adage: “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.”** In your own experience is this true? According to the Bible, is this true? Look at the following Biblical stories or exhortations to see how words hurt people in relationships:

 *Father to Child: Eph. 6:4, Col. 3:21*

 *Brother to Brother: Gen. 21:8-10*

 *Woman to Woman: Phil. 2:2-3*

 *Friend to Friend: Pr. 17:9*

