



Tackling The Text

James 3: The Tongue

1. Using one sentence, summarize James' teaching in verses 1-12.

2. List one thing that you did not understand in this reading.

Verse: _____ Question: _____


3. List three things from these verses that really stick out in your mind (that you think are really important).

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4. Give some examples of how young people your age violate the teaching found in this passage.

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5. List one specific way that this reading bothered you and called for you to make changes in your life.

6. Did you find this reading helpful? Is it something that can help you live for God right away – like tomorrow?

_____ Explain: _____

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Instructions: Go through this text with your students. Begin by reading the passage together (James 3:1-12). Then, have the students answer each question one by one, pausing to discuss their answers before you move on to the next.

- Question #1 Emphasize that this passage is all about the tongue – our speech, the way we talk, the power in our words.
- Question #2 Be sure to explain any verses that were confusing to the students.
- Question #3 Take some time here. Be sure the students explain why they found a particular verse or statement important. You will want to be sure that something is said about the power of our words – the impact they can have on others and our own lives.
- Question #4 Let the students' answers generate this list. It should include things like:
- (1) Gossip
 - (2) Profane speech, cussing
 - (3) Hurtful, angry speech – insults, put downs
 - (4) Disrespectful speech – toward or about parents, teachers, police, politicians, etc.
 - (5) Thoughtless speech – insensitive, hurtful things
 - (6) Lewd speech – trashy talking about inappropriate subjects
- Question #5 Really challenge your students to be honest and specific. You might allow them to answer this one anonymously and pass in their answer so you can read them aloud.
- Question #6 After the students agree that this passage speaks to things that happen in our life every day, that it guides us do the right things and avoid making mistakes that mess up our lives...go on to emphasize the importance of reading the Bible every day. Remind them that the Bible is filled with good stuff like this.