

October 15/16, 2022

**James: Week 5**  
**“The Power of the Tongue”**

**The Scripture:** James 3:1-12

**Big Idea:** What we say, and how we say it, reveals our true inner character.

**The Challenge:**

We have the innate ability to build up or tear down with our choice of words. James lays out the potential for good and evil and how our words give us a window into the soul of a person.

**Pastor Chris’ Prayer for this Message:**

We would realize again the power we have to build up and encourage others with our words. That KAC would be a place where people would be uplifted and encouraged because of the amount of kindness and encouragement here.

**Questions for Discussion:**

**1. Intrinsic Power (vs. 1-5a)**

- Why do you think teachers will be judged more strictly? Does this make you pause at the thought of becoming a teacher?
- How have your words acted like a bridle or a rudder in your life?

**2. Destructive Power (vs. 5b-8)**

- What do you think James is trying to communicate, with the image of our words being like a forest fire? What comes to mind as we live through wildfire season here?
- How have you experienced the destructive power of words before?
- Pastor Chris noted different ways we commit verbal arson: gossip, slander, empty boasting, criticism, mean remarks, coarse language, lies. Which one on this list are you most prone to?

**3. Revealing Power (vs. 9-12)**

- How does the doctrine of the *imago dei* (that everyone is made in the image of God) inform how we speak to and about others?
- A fig tree cannot produce olives because it is not in its nature to. In the same way, if we are born again and have trusted in Jesus Christ, it is not in our nature to use our words to dismantle and destroy. How do the words you say reveal the person you are?
- Pastor Chris encouraged us this week to either: make a situation right with someone we have conflict with, or encourage someone with our words. Have you done either of these things? How did it go?

**Application:**

Break up into smaller groups and use this time to encourage each other. Start by saying, “\_\_\_\_\_ (insert name), I see \_\_\_\_\_ (insert positive attribute, moment, character) in you and this \_\_\_\_\_ (comment on how this inspires, encourages, challenges you).