



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Responsibility of Words - Tyler Van Wingerden

April 10, 2022

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- Recall a time in your life when somebody spoke words that were impactful to you (good or bad). What did they say and why was it so powerful?
- Name a favorite quote or phrase of yours and share why.

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- Take time to re-read James 3:1-12 and Matthew 15: 1-11.
- Discuss the similarities and or differences of these two passages.
- In James 3:3 he says "**We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.**" Followed by in verses 7-8 "All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, **but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**" Compare and contrast these passages.
- What are Jesus and James saying here about the significance of our words? What does our speech reflect about our Faith?

Look - Connections to our world today

- Share about a time when someone used words to hurt you deeply. What was the collateral damage of that?
- What about a time when someone spoke powerfully life-giving words into your life? How did that bear fruit?
- Discuss the impact of social media and how the use of this tool can impact us.
- What habits or practices influence the words that we speak in our daily lives?
- What is an area of our society in which thoughtful controlled speech could have a positive impact?



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- What are some common cultural phrases or words that trigger you? Why do you think that is?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- Who do you have the opportunity to speak or write powerful life-giving words to this week? What would you say?
- Think about a relationship or area of your life in which you could improve on the choice of words you use. Make it a goal this week to thoughtfully pray and ask for the Holy Spirit to transform your speech.
- Take time this week to read John 3:16 or the Lord's prayer out loud before you start your day.

Time of Prayer