

Would you like to join a Small Group at Fellowship Bible Church?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Fellowship and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we can help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

1. The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through, others will be over in a few seconds!
2. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was taught on Sunday morning. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
3. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
4. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of Small Groups. So have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Meeting

Gathering Time

Take 15-20 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up, and share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted ice-breaker question (15-20 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (15-30 min.)
4. **Planning** – Keep the vision before the group, HEALTH planning, etc. (10 minutes)

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Power Words

Details

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Break the Ice!

Icebreaker Question: When you daydream, where do you catch yourself going?

- To the mountains.
- To a sunny beach.
- Laying on my couch on a Sunday afternoon with the TV in the background.
- To the abyss of nothingness!
- Other: _____

Talk it over!

Read James 3:1-12

Question: Why do you think James uses so many illustrations to explain the tongue?

Question: Which one of James' illustrations of word pictures makes the issue of the power of our tongue clearest for you?

Recognize the Power of our Words

-God Created the world with His Word.

–Genesis 1:1-3 and Hebrews 1:1-3

-We create the world in which we live through our words.

Question: What movie describes the kind of world you are creating right now?

- Fight Club
- Sleepless in Seattle
- Die Hard
- Dumb and Dumber
- Other: _____

1. Words have the power to detect.

We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

—James 3:2

Question: How would you describe your ability to think before you speak?

- I don't know how to think very well so if I applied this rule I would never get to speak.
- I think before I speak, but then I speak anyway.
- I am pretty good at holding my tongue.
- I am swimming on the abyss of nothingness. Thinking is the only thing I ever do!!
- Other: _____

2. Words have power to direct

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

—James 3:3-4

Question: Based upon the conversations you have had in the last week, what direction is your life going?

- I am going in the right direction.
- I am going in the wrong direction.
- I don't really like to talk to people because that makes life too complicated for me.
- I am lost on the abyss of nothingness and my life is going nowhere.
- Other: _____

3. Words have power to destroy

Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

—James 3:5-6

Question: How have you seen the effects of an untamed tongue in yourself or in the life of a person you know? What part of this passage was illustrated in their life?

Question: How does this passage motivate us to hold our tongues?

Let that Power be Sanctified

1. Take a talk inventory

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,

O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

—Psalm 19:14

For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

—Matthew 12:37

Question: What have your conversations in the last week revealed about you?

2. The war of words takes place in my heart

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

⁴⁴Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briers. ⁴⁵The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

—Luke 6:43-45

Question: What kind of fruit do you think you are producing in your life right now? How does a person produce good fruit?

3. Give your heart and tongue to the Lord

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

—Romans 6:13

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

—Romans 12:1

Question: How do you think a new heart would affect your tongue?

Question: How do we get a new heart?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
