

#673 Blessing Others (James 3:3-10)

- A. Love gives the other person what they _____ the most, even if they don't _____ it.
- B. Your words have the power to _____ (curse) and the power to _____ (bless).
- C. A curse communicates _____ (dislike, disgust, despise, detest, doom).
- D. A blessing communicates _____ (God's favor, God's prosperity, happiness).
- E. In which Bible verse do you find God's first words to mankind? _____
- F. Your words have _____.
- G. Only God can _____ the tongue.

Life Group Ice Breaker

- 1. Have you ever broken a bone? Has it healed? Explain how it happened.

Discussion Questions

- 2. Regarding this sermon, is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?

- 3. Research the following verses in the Bible. What does each verse say about the tongue? See Psalm 34:13, 39:1, 57:4, 64:3; Proverbs 21:23; Jeremiah 9:3, 9:8, 18:18; James 1:26.

- 4. What was God communicating when He said, "Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks?" See Matt 12:33-37; Luke 6:43-45.

5. Can you name a passage in the Bible which confirms (either positive or negative) the consequences of words?

Application Questions & Prayer

6. You choose: (a) describe a situation where words were used to harm you, or (b) describe a situation where you used your words to harm someone else. As you recount this situation, what did you learn from it that helps you avoid similar situations in the future?

7. Who in your life could use a verbal blessing? What can you do, or will you do, to see that this happens?

8. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads you to make you an instrument of peace through the blessings you share.

Scripture References

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Luke 6:43-45 No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

James 3:3-10 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

Numbers 6:24-26 The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.