



## **DAY 2: Read James 3:7-12**

1. Verses 7 & 9 refer to the creation of animals and human and present an interesting contrast between animals who have been tamed by humans who are not able to tame their own tongues. Why are humans able to tame animals over whom God gave us dominion (Genesis 1:28), but unable to tame our own tongues?
2. Verse 10 describes the dual nature of our tongues; what does this mean to you? How do Proverbs 13:3 and Romans 3:13-14 help us to understand what James writes?
3. How do the examples in nature that are described in James 3:11-12 help us to understand the two natures of the tongue?
4. If no one can conquer the destructiveness of our speech, is it a hopeless task? Find some great hope in Acts 2:25-28, and reflect on the fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

*To Dig Deeper:* Read Psalm 39 about David's struggle with his oft wayward tongue for more encouragement.

## **DAY 3 Read James 3:13-16 and 2 Chronicles 1:1-10**

The next section of James 3 focuses on wisdom. Reflect today on the importance of wisdom from the Old Testament.

1. With all the wealth and power that Solomon had, what one request did he ask from God? Why do you think he chose wisdom as his greatest desire?
2. In what areas of your life could you use more wisdom? Remember the promise of James 1:5.  
*To Dig Deeper:* *The Old Testament book of Proverbs offers significant insight about wisdom.* Read these golden nugget verses in Proverbs regarding wisdom: 1:7, 2:6, 4:5, 17:27-28, 19:20-22, and 25:11. What do these verses say about the nature and importance of wisdom?

#### **DAY 4: Read James 3: 13-16**

1. There are two types of wisdom mentioned in this passage. What are they? How can you tell the difference? According to verse 13, how is true wisdom demonstrated?
2. Verses 13 and 14 point to a struggle between humility and ambition. How would you describe this struggle in your own words? How can you attain the goals in your life and find a healthy balance between ambition and humility?
3. Where does ungodly wisdom originate? Also read Jesus' admonition in Matthew 7:15-23. Have you experienced such ungodly wisdom? How did you discover the truth about these people?

#### **DAY 5: Read James 3: 17-18**

1. How do these verses describe wisdom? How does this description of wisdom compare with Paul's description of the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5?
2. How can God-focused wisdom help people relate better to others in their personal life and in their various communities—church, neighborhood, society?
3. What help is God's wisdom in resolving conflict? Proverbs 15:18 will give some additional insight.
4. What does James mean in verse 18 when he writes about the relationship between peacemaking and righteousness? Have you seen examples of this in your life? What can we do to be more faithful peacemakers?

## DAY 6: Reread James 3

1. Memorize verse 18. Put it in a place you see regularly. Pray for God's wisdom, power and grace to enable you to be an effective peacemaker.
2. What does this passage tell us about what it means to be a disciple or follower of Jesus Christ? Write down two or three characteristics of disciples that come from James 3.
3. Reflect on the words of the hymn "*God of Grace and God of Glory*":

*God of Grace and God of Glory,  
On Your people pour Your power.  
Crown your ancient church's story,  
Bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour.*

*Cure thy children's warring madness,  
Bend our pride to thy control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

Or consider how to use our tongues wisely:

*O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise;  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace.*