

## LIVING ROOMS - WEEK FIVE – RIGHT SPEAKING (JAMES 3:1-12)

*(please try and go through the questions and make a few notes prior to study)*

**MEMORY VERSE James 3:5.** “So also, the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. “

### **BREAKING THE ICE: (15min)**

Share something encouraging that happened in the last seven days?

### **OPEN PRAYER – SHORT SENTENCES.**

Give thanks for the good things in each other's lives

### **LOOK TO THE BOOK: ( 45 min)**

1 ¶ Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards.

2 And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

3 A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse.

4 A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds.

5 A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it! It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire.

6 A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

7 This is scary: You can tame a tiger,

8 but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer.

9 With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image.

10 Curses and blessings out of the same mouth! My friends, this can't go on.

11 A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it?

12 Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

1. What is James big point here?

2. According to verse 2, verse 8, verse 9, 10, how much control do we have over our tongue?

3. Where does our hope lie?

4. Do you know of any people who seem to have the ability to hold their tongue and speak rightly about others. People who are not critical or negative. What is it that distinguishes them? Do you like them?

5. Do you know people who do not have control over their tongue and speak wrongly about others? What is it that distinguishes them? Do you like them?

6. Do you find that when you hang out with a certain kind of person you become more like them?

7. Pastor Jeff related that Jesus taught that what comes out of our mouth flows from the overflow of our hearts. How do we get our hearts right? How do we get them full of “good things”?

8. What kind of person do you want to be known as in regard to how you speak?

9. What things could you do to help you along the path of becoming this kind of person? I can think of three right away.

### **EXTENDED PRAYER TIME:**