

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Share a time when you got a "tongue-lashing."

1. Words are powerful (1-5a)

In what sense is this text linked to James 1:19?

Who does James have in mind when he talks about teachers? How broadly can we/should we apply his warning?

In what ways does James use the bit and the rudder in his description of the tongue? How have you experienced the use of the tongue like this?

2. Words are deadly (5b-8) (Proverbs 18:21)

How does James, in verses 5b-8 build on what he has already said in verses 1-5a?

James states the negative potential of the tongue. Why do you think he doesn't focus on its positive potential?

We lash out with our tongue when we sense an infringement on our view of ourselves; therefore, how well our identity is rooted in Christ will be reflected in our speech. Discuss the implications of this.

3. Words are opportunities (9-12)

How do the contrasts James uses help make his point?

Share a time when words spoken to you have been a blessing? A curse?



What else shines from these verses, impacts, draws attention?



What is difficult to understand in these verses? What would you like to ask the writer, or the Lord?



What are other points of personal application for your life from these verses?