



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WEEK: 26

GOAL OF TONIGHT

Help students see how God's story intersects with their story and why that matters in their day-to-day life.

WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

Hey friends! Tonight we are going to play a game called, "Finish the sentence." You write the first half of a sentence, then mingle around and ask three friends to finish the sentence. It can be silly, serious or as creative as you want it to be. Ready, go! (Note cards and pens/pencils will be provided)

BIBLE VERSES

James 3:7-12

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

We are taking the last few weeks of small group to study the book of James together! As we study this, let's consider how we can continue this method of studying the Bible into the summer months when our small group isn't meeting weekly. We want to keep learning and growing in our faith this summer! We are in the 2nd week of our study - let's check out James 3 this week. Let's dive in!

Read James 3:7-9

1. James is coming down hard on our tongues in these verses! What does he say is so bad evil about them?
2. What do you think it means to "tame the tongue?"
3. Why IS it so difficult to tame our tongues, do you think?
4. Is it possible that you could use your tongue/words for both good and bad things on the same day? Or even within the same hour? Why or why not?

Continue reading James 3:10-12 and then answer these questions.

3. What stands out to you as you read these verses? In other words, what parts of this were interesting, intriguing or even confusing to you?
4. James uses some analogies here - springs, fig trees and grapevines. What is the point of each of these analogies? (Hint: There should be (and usually is) consistency between the producer and the product. ie. The plant and the fruit/the spring and the water...)
5. What tips or advice is James trying to give followers of Jesus in these verses?
6. What would people in your life think if you ONLY used your tongues/words for good and for God?
7. What are some ideas that we could use to help us keep what comes out of our mouths consistent with our faith?

LEADER INSIGHT

The Bible is FULL of analogies like the ones James uses to teach us here. Try to help students lean in to these analogies. Show them how helpful analogies can be as we try to understand the way God wants us to live. Another favorite analogy you might want to show them, if you have time. John 15 - the Vine and the Branches. Check it out!

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

If your group is reading James during the week, keep going into chapter 2! Also, have them write down one or two words or phrases they would like to remove from their vocabulary as they try to "tame their tongue." Pray with them about that!