

A photograph of a person wearing a white protective suit, standing in a room. The background features a large, abstract painting on a wall, characterized by dark, expressive brushstrokes in shades of blue and black. The floor is covered with crumpled, light-colored paper. The overall scene suggests a creative or artistic environment.

M O V E M E N T

READING PLAN

Week THREE

J A M E S

THREE

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³ 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. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

W E E K T H R E E



W E E K T H R E E

Read all of chapter 3 every day focusing on the highlighted scripture for each day of the week.

MONDAY

JAMES 3:1-2

1. Why do you think teachers will be judged more strictly, based on their words?

TUESDAY

JAMES 3:3-6

1. Work through the three analogies James gives in 3:3-6. What does that tell you about the power of the tongue and the implications on the rest of your life?

WEDNESDAY

JAMES 3:7-12

1. In your experience, why is the tongue so difficult to control?
2. James highlights the contrast between the different ways we use our tongue. In what ways does your tongue honor God and others? In what ways does your tongue dishonor God and others?

THURSDAY

JAMES 3:13-16

1. Based on what you've read, how would you describe the difference between worldly wisdom and Godly wisdom?
2. How have you witnessed the presence of envy and selfish ambition (3:14) result in "disorder and every evil practice" (3:16)?

FRIDAY

JAMES 3:17-18

1. How is James 3:17 the antidote for James 3:16?
2. Jesus said "blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). In light of the previous 5 verses, how does being a peacemaker facilitate "wisdom that comes from heaven" (3:17) and work against "earthly wisdom" (3:15)?

C H A L L E N G E

"BUT THE WISDOM THAT COMES FROM HEAVEN IS FIRST OF ALL PURE; THEN PEACE-LOVING, CONSIDERATE, SUBMISSIVE, FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUIT, IMPARTIAL AND SINCERE."

Memorize James 3:17 and share with one other person.

