

A **#Hack4Faith** Discussion-based Study for Groups and/or Individual Enrichment  
**The Letter of James**

*“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete lacking nothing.” James 1:4*

**Discussion Five: *Genuine in Words*, James 3:1-12.**

**Key Phrase:** *“Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way. ” James 3:10*

**1. Discussion Scenario:**

- a. William Barclay writes, “Many a man speaks with perfect courtesy to strangers and even preaches love and gentleness, and yet snaps with impatient irritability at his own family. It has not been unknown for a man to speak with piety on Sunday and to curse a squad of workmen on Monday. ... It has not been unknown for a woman to speak with sweet graciousness at a religious meeting and then to go outside to murder someone’s reputation with a malicious tongue.” (The Daily Study Bible Series, the Letters of James and Peter, Revised Edition 1976) Taming the tongue to be disciplined and genuine in all that it says is one of our greatest challenges as a believer.

**2. The “Fire” in our mouth:**

- a. Read James 3:1-12, [James 3:1-12 CSB - Controlling the Tongue - Not many - Bible Gateway](#).

**3. Digging in:**

- a. Framing some questions for discussion:
  - i. From this passage, write at least three questions you would like the group to discuss. These are questions that you may or may not have an answer to, but you’d like the group to discuss them.
    1. Question 1:
      - a. What verse(s) does this question come from?
    2. Question 2:
      - a. What verse(s) does this question come from?
    3. Question 3:
      - a. What verse(s) does this question come from?
    4. Question 4:
      - a. What verse(s) does this question come from?

- b. Broadening our perspective on our words being disciplined and genuine:
  - i. What three or four additional scriptures/passages throughout the Old/New Testament come to mind with regard to how/why we can/should discipline/train our tongue.
    - 1. Scripture 1 and reference:
      - a. In what way does this impact training the tongue?
    - 2. Scripture 1 and reference:
      - a. In what way does this impact training the tongue?
    - 3. Scripture 1 and reference:
      - a. In what way does this impact training the tongue?
    - 4. Scripture 1 and reference:
      - a. In what way does this impact training the tongue?

#### 4. Bringing it home:

- a. What are your key takeaways from this study/discussion? List up to 3 and be prepared to share at least one.
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii.
- b. Being “genuine in words” -- what two actions can you take this week?
  - i.
  - ii.
- c. Write a short prayer to your Lord Jesus Christ regarding being genuine in words and for help in taming the tongue.

**Acknowledgement:** Some of the content in this study was inspired by William Barclay (1976). *The Daily Study Bible Series, Revised Edition, The Letter of James and Peter*. The Westminster Press.