

# The Book of James (Study)

## Week 3

James 3 focuses on the **power of the tongue** and **true wisdom from God**. James warns about the dangers of careless words and how speech can either build up or destroy. He then contrasts **earthly wisdom**, which leads to disorder, with **heavenly wisdom**, which produces peace and righteousness. A transformed heart will reflect godly wisdom in both words and actions.

### Day 1: The Power of the Tongue (James 3:1-6)

**Focus:** Words have the power to bless or destroy.

- **Read:** James 3:1-6
- **Key Verse:** *James 3:5* – “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.”
- **Reflection:**
  - How does James compare the tongue to a fire?
  - Have you ever experienced the power of words in a positive or negative way?
  - What steps can you take to control your words?
- **Application:** Today, focus on speaking words that build others up rather than tear them down.

#### Memorize:

Find a verse to memorize and meditate on how your speech reflects your faith in Christ.

### Day 2: Taming the Tongue (James 3:7-12)

**Focus:** Words should reflect the heart of Christ.

- **Read:** James 3:7-12
- **Key Verse:** *James 3:10* – “Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.”
- **Reflection:**
  - Why does James emphasize the inconsistency of praising God while speaking negatively of others?
  - What does this passage reveal about the connection between the heart and the tongue?
  - How can you align your speech more with Christ today?
- **Application:** Choose to intentionally speak life today. If tempted to say something negative, pause and choose a more uplifting response.

## Memorize:

Select a verse to keep in mind, asking God to help you use your words for His glory.

## Day 3: The Difference Between Earthly and Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:13-16)

**Focus:** True wisdom is shown in humility, not selfish ambition.

- **Read:** James 3:13-16
- **Key Verse:** *James 3:13* – “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.”
- **Reflection:**
  - How does James describe **earthly wisdom**?
  - Why is humility a key sign of godly wisdom?
  - In what ways do selfish ambition and envy affect relationships?
- **Application:** Examine a recent decision or conflict in your life. Ask yourself: Am I acting with godly wisdom or earthly wisdom? Adjust accordingly.

## Memorize:

Find a verse from today’s reading and ask God for wisdom in your words and actions.

## Day 4: The Characteristics of Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

**Focus:** Living with wisdom that reflects Christ.

- **Read:** James 3:17-18
- **Key Verse:** *James 3:17* – “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.”
- **Reflection:**
  - What are the characteristics of godly wisdom?
  - Which of these traits do you struggle with the most?
  - How can you pursue peace and righteousness in your relationships?
- **Application:** Choose one trait of godly wisdom from verse 17 and intentionally practice it today.

## Memorize:

Pick a verse to carry with you as you seek to walk in wisdom.

## Day 5: Review & Personal Reflection

**Focus:** Applying godly wisdom and speaking life.

- **Review:** Reread James 3 and reflect on what you've learned.
- **Key Themes:**
  - Words have power—they can bless or destroy.
  - The tongue is difficult to control but should reflect Christ.
  - Earthly wisdom leads to disorder; heavenly wisdom leads to peace.
  - True wisdom is shown through humility and good deeds.
- **Reflection:**
  - Which verse from James 3 impacted you the most?
  - How has your perspective on speech and wisdom changed?
  - What action will you take based on this study?
- **Application:** Identify one specific way you will apply what you've learned in your daily life.

### Memorize:

Select a key verse from James 3 and keep it close as a reminder of what God has taught you.