



Speak Thoughtfully

WARM UP

**What is the funniest situation you have ended up in because of a mix up of words or miscommunication (spoken or digital)?**

SET IT UP

Sometimes we underestimate the power of our words – whether written or spoken. But words have great power. Proverbs 18:12 tells us that our words can bring life or death into our relationships, our church and our world. The power of the tongue is completely disproportionate to its size. As James says, it's like a rudder, a spark, or a bit in the mouth of a horse.

CHAT IT UP

- 1. Words have the power of life or death. What are some words that have been spoken to you that brought you life?**
- 2. Do the words from your fingers look different than the words from your mouth? Why?**
- 3. Read James 3:2-12. From this passage, we see that words have the power to direct, destroy, and diagnose. Which of those three ways do you find yourself using words the most? Why?**
- 4. James uses multiple illustrations in this passage (horse's bit, rudder, spark, animals being tamed). Which illustration challenges you the most? Why?**
- 5. James 3: 9-12 talks about how from the same tongue come words of life and death. What do we usually fail to do when we find ourselves speaking words of death (Answer- think before you speak or being thoughtful about our words)?**
- 6. Luke 6:45 says "The mouth speaks what the heart is full of". If you want to change your words, you need to change your heart. What harmful words do you typically find coming out of your mouth? What heart change do you need to make to change that?**
- 7. Who is someone in your life who needs to hear life-giving words from you this week?**

WRAP IT UP

Never underestimate the weight of your words. The smallest, seemingly insignificant words have the potential to bring life or death. This week, spend some time intentionally monitoring your heart. Look for ways to speak words of life to those around you.

---

## LEADER TIPS

- The trimester will be over before you know it. Take some time now to plan how your group will impact your community. Be on the lookout for Parker Hill's Christmas local impact project and how your group can get involved.