



#### TODAY'S MAIN POINT

When Jesus changes your heart, your mouth follows

#### TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE(S)

James 3:1-12

#### TEACHING GOAL

Students will recognize that their words—especially in conversations, group chats, and reputation environments—reveal what is shaping their hearts, and that Jesus transforms both what we say and why we say it.

This week, students are exploring how their words—especially in conversations, group chats, and reputation environments—reveal what's shaping their hearts. James challenges us to notice the gap that can exist between worshipping God and speaking negatively about people made in His image. Encourage students to think honestly about where their words are most inconsistent and where Jesus might want to bring change.

#### Let's Break the Ice:

- Do you believe that words can be destructive? How do you feel when you see or hear someone tear down someone else with their words?
- Where do you see people harmed by words the most – in person, group chats, or social media?
- Why do people say things in private that they wouldn't say in public?

#### Bible Study:

- Read Together or ask someone to summarize the story: As a group, read James 3:1-12 NIV (*Telos Bible Pg. 1214*)

#### Discussion Questions:

- According to James, what do our words show about what's happening in our hearts? Do you agree or disagree?
- Do you think it's possible to say something that you genuinely don't mean or do you think there's a little truth in everything we say?
- Why is it so easy to say things that we may regret later? What can we do to keep that from happening regularly?

### Make it Real:

- Is there a time recently when you said something that hurt someone – or could have hurt someone? What happened? What do you think the godly next step would be to help repair the damage your words may have caused? (*Leader note: Be prepared to meet your students with the truth of the Gospel here. Slow down and lean in*)

### Discipleship Moment:

If there is a relationship where words have caused more harm than good, take an intentional step towards repairing that relationship. This could include:

- Asking God to forgive you and heal the person you hurt
- Asking God to help you forgive someone who hurt you even if they never apologize.
- Apologizing to a friend for something you said.
- Letting someone else know how their words have hurt you and offering to forgive them.

**Partner Check-In:** Pair students up and have them commit to checking in with their partner at some point during the week or during your next gathering.

### Prayer:

- Close with group prayer
  - Take prayer requests
  - Celebrate what God has done over the last week