



## Fruit of the Spirit— Discipleship

### A Series that will bring Fruit to your Life

~ Troy DeFeo

#### Bible Study Five:

#### Love:

#### “Loving with My Words”

**Text: James 3:1-12**

It has been said that more people have been killed with the tongue than in all the wars in human history. In the workplace, classroom, home, and even in the churches.

Complaining and faultfinding are a way of life. Gossip and cursing are poisons we all drink from. The Bible describes Satan as the ultimate accuser, the Father of Lies, standing before the Lord day and night to point out our faults.

**Revelation 12:10**

As a result, both the world and the church are filled with people crying out for words of



affirmation and love.

James 3 explores the powerful effect of our tongues and challenges us to put our faith into action by loving one another with our words.

1. Do you find yourself encouraging others and blessing people with your words or criticizing people? Building up or tearing down? Grateful or gossip?

**Read James 3:1-12:** Why does James suggest we should hesitate before becoming teachers :( oh my )vs. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

2. God does indeed have a higher standard and accountability for those in leadership. A good example of this is found in 1 Timothy 5:20, where Paul says that an elder who sins should be rebuked publicly so others will be warned. What are your feelings about this? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How do a horse's bit and ship's rudder illustrate the power of the tongue? .vs. 3-4

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4. James compares the tongue to a fire (vs. 5-6); How does this image illustrate its potential destructiveness? \_\_\_\_\_

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Just as fire came down from heaven at Pentecost to enable the early church to declare the wonders of God with their tongue (Acts 2:3-4), so there is a fire that comes from hell itself. This was illustrated with Peter when he rebuked Jesus, telling him not to go to the cross. Jesus replied, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." - Matthew 16:23

**Discuss this verse:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reputation. Reputation. Reputation. - How does your reputation look at work, family, community, and church? Discuss** \_\_\_\_\_

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5. James points out that we can tame almost every kind of bird and beast , but not the tongue. Why is that? \_\_\_\_\_ v 7,8

6. James notes that the tongue can have a positive impact. What hypocrisy, however, does he expose in verses 9-12? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What is the result if both fresh and salt water should flow from the same spring?  
vs 11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Loving one another with our words and actions is like worshipping together? How?

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9. Ephesians 4:29— read \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Acts 4:36-37 - Barnabas, means “son of encouragement”

Jonathon for David — who was he? \_\_\_\_\_

1 Sam. 23:16 “was a friend to him”,  
1 Sam. 18:1-4 “the same kindred spirit” - What I loved the best about Jonathon was he never got jealous of David, he looked out for him, protected him, and even stood up to his father and kind for him. He was so loyal-- he was a true example of Jesus.

Read: Psalms 15:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_

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Words of the tongue: Proverbs 10:19, 21, 15:22, 17:27-28, 18:13, 24:26, 27:5-6, 29:11, 29:20 —— wow, Solomon had a lot to say about the tongue.

**Your favorite?** \_\_\_\_\_