

August 3rd–9th

Lesson 8: James 3:1–12

THE MASTER KEY

1. Read James 3:1–12. What warning does James give to aspiring teachers?
2. James uses some vivid imagery to explain why controlling our tongues is the key to maturity. How is a tongue like a horse's bit or a ship's rudder? (verses 2–5)
3. What is mentioned in verse 5 as a common problem of the tongue? How can this cause great damage?
4. Put into your own words what James says about the tongue in verse 6.
5. Write a description of the untamed tongue from verse 8. Why can't we tame our own tongue?
6. Read Matthew 12:33–37 and 15:17–20. Where do our words come from? Describe how our words reveal what is in our heart.
7. What are the things mentioned in verses 9–12 that don't go together? What point is being made by these regarding the tongue?
8. As you examine your heart and think of the words you have spoken over this past week, what hope do you have for change? (See Isaiah 30:15; Ezekiel 36:26.)