



ANTHOLOGY

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# me & My **BIG MOUTH**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  
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## PART 2 VIDEO NOTES

We **all** stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they **say** is **perfect**, able to keep their whole body in **check**. When we put **bits** into the **mouths** of horses to make them **obey** us, we can turn the **whole animal**. Or take **ships** as an example. Although they are so **large** and are driven by **strong winds**, they are steered by a **very small rudder** wherever the pilot wants to go.

### SMALL PART/BIG INFLUENCE

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**. The tongue also is a **fire**, a world of **evil** among the parts of the body. It corrupts the **whole** body, sets the **whole** course of one's **life** on fire ...

### IF YOU START A FIRE **ACCIDENTALLY**, YOU ARE STILL **RESPONSIBLE** FOR THE FIRE YOU STARTED.

... and is itself set on fire by **hell**. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being **tamed** and have been **tamed** by mankind, but no human being **can** tame the tongue. It is a **restless** evil, full of deadly **poison**. With the tongue we **praise** our Lord and Father, and with it we **curse** human beings, who have been **made in God's likeness**. Out of the same mouth come **praise** and **cursing**. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both **fresh** water and **salt** water flow from the **same** spring? My brothers and sisters, can a **fig** tree bear **olives**, or a **grapevine** bear **figs**? Neither can a **salt** spring produce **fresh** water.

- James 3:2-12

What do we do?

Remember / Surrender / Confess

# HEAVENLY FATHER, REMIND ME TO BE QUICK TO LISTEN AND SLOW TO SPEAK.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

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1. James used the metaphor of a small spark starting a great forest fire to illustrate the power of our tongues. Share some examples of people who have started “forest fires” with their words. What kind of damage did they do?
2. Who has significantly impacted your life with their words? Were the words that shaped you positive or negative?
3. In which relationship do you most often find yourself losing control of your mouth? Have you faced any relational consequences as a result?
4. Take a few minutes to answer these questions on your own.

In the message, Andy said that with your tongue, “There is constant potential for great good and constant potential for great evil.”

- Read through the list of positive statements below and **circle** the three that would most lift you up if someone said them to you.

You're fun to be around.

I'm lucky to know you.

You make me laugh.

I'm glad you're in my life.

I was thinking about you earlier.

I missed you.

You're a great leader.

You're so talented.

You're smart.

I appreciate how supportive you are.

You mean the world to me.

I'm impressed by your hard work.

You look great.

I wish I were as empathetic as you.

You always put others first.

I respect you.

You brighten my day.

You're so creative.

You're a great listener.

I know you can do it.

I trust you.

I'm proud of you.

Your opinion is valuable.

You're the most generous person I know.

- Now underline any of the statements you've said to someone recently.
  - Who might need to hear one (or more) of these encouraging statements from you?
  - If you feel comfortable, share one of your takeaways from this session with the group.
5. Can you think of anyone you've been trying to be right at instead of right with? What step can you take this week to put your relationship before your righteousness (or "rightness")?

## THIS WEEK . . .

We are powerful because our words are powerful. Our mouths have more destructive power than any other part of the body. The good news is that we also have the power to avoid the consequences of an untamed tongue if we choose to take James's wisdom to heart and surrender this powerful tool to God. Take time this week to pray:

**"Heavenly Father, remind me to be quick to listen and slow to speak."**

## PRAYER

God, I know what it's like to be lifted up by other people's positive words. And I know what it's like to be hurt by other people's negative words. Help me be quick to listen and slow to speak so I can build others up instead of tearing them down.

**IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY START A FIRE  
WITH YOUR WORDS, YOU ARE STILL  
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIRE YOU  
ACCIDENTALLY STARTED.**