

City LG - July 27-28, 2019

Bible Story: More Than Words (Taming of the Tongue) • James 3:3-10

Bottom Line: God gives you the power to have self-control.

Memory Verse: *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6, NIV

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: “Zeal” and “Look to You”

(Worship Leader prays)

WELCOME:

Supplies Needed: Bible, Cupcake (1 per service), Lighter, and Candle (1 per service)

“Hi, everyone! Earlier this month we talked about Jesus’ brother James. James wrote a letter that’s included in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* We call it the book of—you guessed it—James!

“James wrote about how important it is for us to have self-control. We have to be really careful with the things we say. After all, our words have a lot of power—more than we even realize!

“Let me show you what James had to say about staying in control.”

“Raise your hand if you’ve ever been around a horse before. *(Pause for response.)* Horses are REALLY big, right? So it’s really important that we train them to obey our commands. If we didn’t, it could be dangerous—because a wild horse does pretty much anything it wants to!”

“Listen to what James said about that.

Open the Bible to James 3:3 (NIV) and read.

“We put a small piece of metal in the mouth of a horse to make it obey us. We can control the whole animal with it.

CG: Horse Bit JPEG

“It’s pretty amazing. A rider can guide a horse where it needs to go because of that tiny bit that’s in the horse’s mouth. Suddenly this huge animal that COULD be so dangerous is much safer because it’s in control.”

“James also talked about the way we control a ship.

“Here’s what James says...

Open the Bible to James 3:4 (NIV) and read.

“And how about ships? They are very big. They are driven along by strong winds. But they are steered by a very small rudder. It makes them go where the captain wants to go.

CG: Ship Rudder JPEG

“You see, the rudder makes a big difference. The ship doesn’t seem so dangerous after all, because you can steer it and keep it under control.”

“James talked about another example in his letter...”

“Raise your hand if you’ve ever had birthday candles on your birthday cake. *(Pause for responses.)* Yep—me, too!”

Light candle on Cupcake.

(Look at the candle) “The flame on this candle is so small, isn’t it? Maybe it doesn’t SEEM very dangerous. But what if this candle fell onto a stack of newspaper? Do you know what would happen to our tiny little birthday flame? *(Pause for response.)* That’s right! It wouldn’t be so tiny anymore. That tiny little flame could become a huge fire in just a few seconds!

“James said it like this.

Open the Bible to James 3:5b (NirV) and read.

“Think about how a small spark can set a big forest on fire.

“Let’s play it safe.”

Blow out the candle.

“Let’s think about all these examples that James gave us. It’s important to control a horse. That’s why we have that tiny bit that goes in the horse’s mouth. It’s important to control a ship so we can steer in the right direction. That’s why a ship has a rudder. And it’s important to keep control of a flame so it doesn’t become a dangerous fire.

“In the same way, we need to be careful with the words we say. We need to have self-control. We need to control our tongues *(hold your tongue)* so we don’t get ourselves in danger! That’s what this week’s video is all about. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 10:30)

Open the Bible to James 3:5a (NirV) and read.

“James said: *The tongue is a small part of a person’s body. But it talks big.*

“If we’re not careful, our tongues can say words that really hurt people—just like a spark causes a huge forest fire!

“If we don’t have self-control, we can find ourselves saying nice things one minute and then not-so-nice things the next. We can find ourselves saying something mean to a friend or brother or sister. James said this.

Open the Bible to James 3:9-10 (NirV) and read.

“With our tongues we praise our Lord and Father. With our tongues we curse people. We do it even though people have been created to be like God. Praise and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it shouldn’t be this way.

“Here’s the really good news. God can help us have self-control with our words. He can help us choose to use GOOD words instead of saying things that can cause harm. When we power up with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can stay in control.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Remember this: **[Bottom Line] God gives you the power to have self-control.**

“Let’s pray and ask Him to help us now.”

Pray: “Dear God, it can be really tough for us to have self-control with our words. So many times we just say things without thinking, but we know we need to choose our words wisely. Please help us to pause when we feel like saying something angry or mean. Help us stay in control and use words that are helpful and kind. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“We can easily lose control and say something mean without meaning to. That’s why James wrote: *No one can tame the tongue (James 3:8 NIV).*

“We can’t keep from saying things that hurt ourselves and others . . . at least not without help. That’s why it’s so important for us to power up with the Holy Spirit. When we choose to believe and follow Jesus, we receive the gift of the Spirit. And the Spirit helps us have self-control.

“If you’ve ever had trouble controlling your tongue, you’re not alone. It’s something that’s hard for all of us. But here’s the really great news.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control.

“When you want to yell at your brother because he’s annoying you, remember:

[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control.

“When you want to complain because you’re not happy with what’s on your dinner plate, remember:

[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control.

“When your friend at school isn’t being nice to you and you want to say something mean back, remember:

[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control.

“It’s not easy. But you can do it with God’s help! Before we head to Small Group now and talk some more about that, let’s worship God with our offering!”

Offering Time:

“Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called ‘Missions of Hope’ to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them.”

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

“(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya and is part of a really great place called Mission of Hope International! Here’s a picture of Missions of Hope!”

CG: Missions of Hope JPEG

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! *(show offering container).*”

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 3:00)

Dismiss to Small Groups