

Alley Rundown—July 31st, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Under Control (Taming of the Tongue) • *James 3:1-6*

Today's Key Question: What can happen when you lose control?

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

Monthly 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: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“Hello, everyone! So you're probably aware of this whole thing called 'social media,' right? I'm not gonna ask if you're on social media because you're probably all too young anyway, but we all know people in our lives who enjoy their share of TikTok videos, Instagram Reels and Photos, Facebook posts, and let's not forget our favorite YouTube friends. So question: do you think that social media has influenced or changed, the way we talk to one another? (*pause*) Yeah, I think so, too. Before we dive into what we're talking about, I'd like to try a little experiment.

“Find a partner, a friend, someone you're sitting next to, and face him or her. It doesn't have to be a weird staring contest; it's just so you can see each other's answers. This is called 'Word Association.' I'm going to say a word, and you are going to say the first word that comes into your head, no thinking about it, just blurt it out. I want to see how many times your words match! Ready? Let's try!

Word Association List

Beach

Fire

School

Friend

YouTube

Avengers

Music

Cookies

Sharp

Hand

Cold

“Did anyone end up blurting out the same word? Were you surprised at what words were blurted out by your partner?”

Pause for responses.

“It's funny, but I feel like this is what happens a LOT on social media. People just respond with the first thing that pops into their heads. It's like their brain doesn't even engage or get in the middle, they just react and hit send. Boom. Done.

“But this isn't something that just happens in a phone app. It could happen through a text message. It could happen in a note passed in class. It could even happen in a face-to-face conversation! Just think for a bit about how many fights between friends could've been avoided if they each just paused a moment before responding?

“Unfortunately, we've all been guilty of just saying the first thing that comes into our heads. So the question is: How in the world do we control that? How many times have we offended someone else, completely killed the conversation, or stressed a friendship because our words got the better of us? Or maybe we said something that was meant to be funny but it came off as insulting?

“But that’s not what I meant! I was just kidding!”

“Can we even have self-control over the words we say?”

“This is a HUGE question. Words are so important. This is the type of question that if you figure this out, if you let God’s Spirit help you in this area, it will save you from a TON of stress and frustration and heartache. And what’s great is that one of the writers in the Bible addressed this—a guy named James wrote about this very thing over 2,000 years ago. Let’s see what he had to say with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:00)

“The one thing, if you remember anything from today, is that your tongue talks big. We really need to work to stay in control of our actions and, more importantly, our words. Your tongue is a small thing, but wow, does it have a huge impact.

“So, stop and think before you speak. Stop and think before you hit ‘send.’ Ask God to help you choose your words carefully. God’s Spirit can help you stay in control! Even in those times when you don’t want to . . . when you’ve got the “perfect” comeback, or the “perfect” comment to a post online . . . self-control is choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to. As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“**What can happen when you lose control?** Think about the times when you mouthed off or said or texted something you shouldn’t have. Think about how you had to go back and apologize or how you felt when the other person’s feelings were hurt. How can you stop that from happening again? You’ll dig into this more in your Small Group, but before you head out, let’s pray and ask God’s Spirit to help us control our mouths and what we say. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING:

As you may know, all this Summer we are raising money to dig water wells in the Country of Malawi. When you bring your offering in, not only are you showing Kindness, but you are also helping many people in Malawi to have clean water to drink and cook with. So if you brought offering today, you can bring it up now!

CG: Malawi Wells Pictures