

Curriculum



SAMPLE *James: Faith That Works*

Living Faith
Being Obedient
Taking Action
Words Matter
Heart's Desire
Seeking God

A sample of the James curriculum begins on the following page.

**LEARN: Overview**

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit www.B-B-T.org.

**Curriculum: The *BBT 1-2-3*™ Format**

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3*™ format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



1 Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



2 Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



3 Recap – Encourages community and application

**LIVE: Sample James**

Have you ever been tempted to lash out with harsh words, tempted to endure trials by your own strength, tempted to take matters into your own hands? In this 6-part study, James helps us understand how temptation leads to sin and practical strategies for resisting.

Volume includes:

1. Living Faith
 2. Being Obedient
 3. Taking Action
 4. Words Matter
 5. Heart’s Desire
 6. Seeking God
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**LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study**

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)



PRAYERS



LEARN

The Reality of Conflict

Dissension ... strife ... conflict. Sadly, if you interact with people, you are sure to experience these things! Why is that? It's not like you set out in the morning to belittle someone, gossip, or complain. Yet, these are temptations you face daily. Ever found yourself lifting someone up one minute ... and then tearing someone else down the next. Think about how you speak to others, and the tone you use. Think about your words when you text or email – how it will be received on the other end? The “tongue” is small, yet mighty. It has so much power to influence – for better or for worse!

The Remedy for Dissension

[James 3:1-4:12](#) is the lengthiest section of this short letter, and it focuses on the origin of dissension in the early church community: the tongue, jealousy and selfish ambition – timeless tools of evil that wreak havoc on our lives and on the lives of others. The remedy, then (and today), according to James, is to conduct ourselves in accordance with wisdom from above – God’s wisdom – that He promises to give generously ([James 1:5](#)). Can you imagine what your workplace would be like if you and your Christian peers were always governed by wisdom from above?

The Righteousness of God

The goal for the Christian life is righteous living – conduct that is pleasing to God. This can’t happen without asking the Holy Spirit for help in controlling the tongue. We must also seek God’s wisdom in our ambition, so as not to have self-serving and jealous motivations.

In this lesson we will seek to better understand our sinful desires, and the contradictory nature of our tongues, so that we may apply these Biblical principles to our lives.



LIVE

Discussion questions: Read the [text](#) and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [James 3:1-2](#) and [Luke 12:37-48](#). What do these verses teach us about how your words matter, especially in leadership roles?
2. Read [James 3:3-6](#). To what does James compare your tongue and how does that help you understand it’s impact?
3. Read [James 3:7-12](#). How have you experienced the contradictory nature of the tongue?
4. Read [James 3:13-18](#). What solution does James offer to mitigate damage caused by your words?_

Application Question: How will your words impact the people in your workplace?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



PRAYERS

Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests



LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



LIVE

Discussion Questions: Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

- 1) Read [James 3:1-2](#) and [Luke 12:47-48](#). What do these verses teach about how your words matter, especially in leadership roles?



The perks of a leadership role may be attractive, but with it comes great responsibility and the need for humility. Speech and action are interwoven and can reflect an individual's integrity.



In James' day, there would have been few people qualified to teach Biblical material, yet many Christians were attracted to this ministry because of the personal honor and public acknowledgement that followed. But, Jesus teaches that the more we are given, the higher the expectation that these gifts are used effectively for Him. Therefore, James says that teachers can expect to receive God's stricter judgement because they bear the incredible responsibility of nurturing people in their faith, and their primary tool is the same part of the body that is often difficult to control: *the tongue*. James acknowledges that because everyone stumbles (or sins), and no one is perfect, we will *all* struggle with control over our words.



Consider praying as a group, for others who are in teaching and leadership roles. Pray for the many people around the world who are joining God's Word through BBT and other ministries (some who are studying the Bible for the very first time).

Notes:

- 2) Read [James 3:3-6](#). To what does James compare your tongue and how does that help you understand it's impact?



James uses two illustrations to portray the power and danger of words and implies that we should all seek to grow in holiness by asking God to help us control them by His Spirit.



The first image James uses is that of a small bit, which controls and guides the direction of a horse. The second, a rudder on a ship that can steer a course, even while fighting high winds. If believers can control their words, they are able to direct the course of their whole lives! The opposite is also true. Unrestrained words mean the rest of the body is likely to be uncontrolled and undisciplined. Words wield a powerful influence and can wreak havoc – just like fire can destroy a home, a business, a forest – the undisciplined tongue (enabled by Satan) not only corrupts the whole person, but disrupts every aspect of life – community, workplace, family. It's as if all the wickedness of the world is compactly housed in the tongue.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You may want to ask, “How have your words (or others’) destroyed morale, or compromised trust on the job?” Discuss examples of the impact words can have (not just spoken verbally but non-verbal, written, etc.) in the workplace and how you can keep your tongue in check and lead others by your example.

Notes:

3) Read [James 3:7-12](#). How have you experienced the contradictory nature of the tongue?



James illustrates the contradictory nature of our tongues by illustrating how we bless God with praise and then from the same mouth curse others made in His image.



James drives home his point with three illustrations from nature. Springs in dry Palestine climates produced fresh water and were of vital importance. But James’ point is that the same spring does not provide fresh water one minute, and then salt water the next. Similarly, a fig tree cannot produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs. So too, a true believer would not produce both blessings to God and curses toward others made in His image. But, no human being can tame the tongue; only the Holy Spirit can, *if* we surrender control to Him.

Notes:

4) Read [James 3:13-18](#). What solution does James offer to mitigate damage caused by your words?



James advises us to seek wisdom from above, wisdom that God gives generously (see [James 1:5](#)) and that is “pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit; impartial and sincere.”



James says believers are to demonstrate wisdom from above by working in humility – a virtue valued by Jesus (see [Matt. 5:5](#)). James explains that false wisdom – if allowed to run its course – produces confusion, fighting, turmoil, and creates an environment where an unlimited variety of sins germinate. Instead, true wisdom from above is accompanied by humility and produces moral blamelessness (purity), peaceable-ness (the opposite of selfish ambition), kindness (a willingness to yield to others), a willingness to be persuaded (not close-minded), and fullness of mercy and good fruits (always willing to help those in need). Wisdom from above also yields consistency (showing no favoritism) and sincerity (genuineness). The goal for the Christian life is conduct pleasing to God.



Facilitate a brief discussion. Read [James 3:16](#) together and then ask, “When in your career have you been driven by selfish ambition? How often are you jealous of others at work?” Instead we are to seek God’s wisdom in our ambitions so as not to be self-serving.

Notes:

Application Question: How will your words impact the people in your workplace?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask Yourself: What changes will I make to reduce the negative impact my words can have on my relationships?

PLEASE NOTE: This is study 4 of 6 on James. What will you consider next? Consult a [BBT Coach](#) for suggestions.

Sample



PRAYERS

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James reminds teachers and leaders that they bear a heavy responsibility because their words will affect future generations. He reminds Christians that words can be like a small spark that sets an entire forest ablaze. Therefore, James encourages his readers to show godly wisdom in their words.

Scripture references for this study: [James 3:1-4:12](#), [James 1:5](#), [Matt. 5:5](#), [James 3:1](#) & [Luke 12:47-48](#)



LIVE

- The weight of words
- The wounds of words
- The wisdom of words

Application Question: How will your words impact the people in your workplace?



LEAD

Ask Yourself: What changes will I make to reduce the negative impact my words can have on my relationships?

Sample