

**Sunday, September 12, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

**Bible Study – James 3:1-12  
“Taming the Tongue”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, have participants share a story about when they were the object of rumors or gossip; or have them talk about a time when they engaged in rumors or gossip that resulted in harm to someone else.

**James 3:1-12. Context.** In several previous passages, James has stressed how important it is that our words match our deeds. In this passage, he makes much of the power of language and speech to give life, but he makes even more of their power to dominate and destroy.

**Read James 3:1-12**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read James 3:1-12 again.**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

- How big a sin do most people think gossiping is? How big a sin does James seem to suggest it is?
- Why do you think James holds teachers to a higher standard (3:1)?
- Do you agree with James' assessment that the tongue can do such great harm (3:2-5)?
- Have participants share when others spoke words of blessing over them. How might we be more intentional to offer words of affirmation and blessing?
- What are James' images of the spring (3:11) and a tree (3:12) attempting to convey about our lives?
- What might God be calling you to do as a response to this passage?

**Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:  
I ask God for....  
I thank God for.....

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God of all people, forgive us when we fail to treat or speak to others as if they are anything less than people made in the image of God. By the power of your Holy Spirit, work within us so that we will offer words of affirmation and blessing so that others might experience your grace.

**Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.