

Being Wise With Our Words
Proverbs Series #5

Read James 3:1-12

1. What makes the illustration of a spark and rudder appropriate pictures of the power of our words?
2. If verse 8 is true, what hope is there for us to control our words?
3. How seriously do you take verse 9 in your everyday conversation?
 - a. Who are you prone to 'curse' (speak in a way that fails to honour or respect them as a person/people made in God's image)?
 - b. What do verses 9-10 say about the manner in which we should choose our words?
4. There are at least 4 patterns of how we use our words.
 - Deceitfully - intentionally manipulating others for our gain/benefit at the direct cost of another person (gossip, slander, lying)
 - Carelessly – words that harm relationships with no potential for blessing (lying, quick-tempered words, insults)
 - Controlled – words that come from thinking before speaking (wise advice, sometimes this shows in what we don't say)
 - 'Care'fully – words that seek to intentionally bless (truth spoken in love, encouragement)
 - a. Think of when you speak from the first 2 patterns. Is it to or about certain people? What motivates or prompts those patterns?
 - b. How can you cooperate with God to replace the top 2 patterns with the bottom 2?
 - c. What blessing in your life have you ever received or given from the top 2 patterns?
 - d. What blessing could you give to someone this week by using the bottom 2 patterns?

Scripture Memorization: James 1:26