

# TAKEAWAY

## Life Hacks

### Weird Words of Wisdom from the Book of James

#### TALKING THE TALK

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020

#### INTRODUCTION

As James spirals round his favourite themes of what it means to truly follow Jesus, he circles back to pick up on the subject of our tongues and the words that we use. He doesn't pull any punches. In James 1:26 he had already said that if you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you're fooling yourself. Your religion is worthless. In James 3 he goes into more detail.

#### READ

James 3: 1-6

#### DISCUSS

1. Verse 1 seems to be directed just at Bekah and Matt, but do you have areas where you have a greater responsibility for the words that you say? How can your group support you in that?
2. In verses 3-4, James suggests that our tongue can change the course of our life, relationships or career. Can you think of times in your life when your words have had this effect – for good or bad?
3. How do James' words here prompt and shape your reflection on what you have said to others in the last few days?

4. What do you find most challenging about these verses?

#### READ

James 3: 7-18

#### DISCUSS

5. These words are super challenging. What does your tongue reveal about your heart?
6. On a Sunday, we use our mouths to praise God. What might it look like to continue that all week long through our everyday conversations?

#### EXPLAIN

Verse 8 seems pretty desolate: "*no human can control the tongue.*" Verses 13-18 give the solution. Our strength in our talk is the same as everything else we humanly struggle with.

It is through Christ in us – His wisdom transforming our hearts and minds – that enables us to 'clean up' our speech. It's often when we're tired, hungry or stressed that we lose control.

#### DISCUSS

8. Jesus modeled how to talk on the cross: "Father forgive, take care of my Mum, I'll see you soon." Grace, compassion and a promise. What situations will you face this week where you need Christ in you to change and improve how you talk?
9. One last challenge: How do you talk about church with your family and friends? How does this influence them? What might you change?

