

Observation Questions

Notes

- How does what came earlier in the letter contribute to our understanding of this passage?
- Why does James focus on teachers when introducing the topic of controlling the tongue?
- What does James mean when he says teachers, “will be judged with greater strictness?”
- How does v.2 (if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man...) add to our understanding of the tongue’s influence?
- Explain how the tongue has such control over our lives that a bit and a rudder are good comparisons.

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Application Questions

- The tongue is physically small yet it boasts great influence over our lives and the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. How does this truth shape your daily/weekly interaction with church family? What cautions might this raise as we seek to be a church where discipleship/word ministry is the responsibility of every member?

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Prayer

Lord, forgive us for our sinful, misguided, and destructive words toward each other. May our hearts be renewed by your great love for us in Christ Jesus, so that we may honor you with our lips.