

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# **BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION**

## **James – Living Rightly as God’s People**

### **Sermon Series**

**06, 13 February 2022**

**James 3**

**Living Rightly by Our Speech**

**20, 27 February 2022**

**James 4:1-12**

**Living Rightly in Submission**



**06, 13 February 2022**

**James 3**

**Living Rightly by Our Speech**

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Have you ever witnessed someone do something or say something which then left a very strong impression on you about his/her character? What was it?

### **OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION**

Read James 3:1-12.

1. Why does James say that the one who is never at fault in what he says is a perfect man (v.2)? What analogies does he use to explain this (vv.3-4)?
2. What does the tongue do (vv.5-6, 8)? What effect does this have on the individual body and on the corporate Body of Christ?
3. How does the tongue demonstrate that it is not tamed (v.8)? What does it tell us about the inner self (vv.9-12)?
4. How do vv.2-12 explain why James says that not many should become teachers (cf. Matt 12:33-37)? What effect would self-promoting teachers have on the community? (For an extension: consider the effect that self-promoting leaders and people in general have on the community.)

Read James 3:13-18.

5. How is true wisdom identified? Consider both characteristics that positively identify true wisdom and characteristics that rule out true wisdom.
6. What effect does true wisdom have on the community (v.18)? How does this compare with the effect of the other kind of "wisdom"?

## PUTTING IT TOGETHER

7. What is James saying in James 3 about the relationship between the tongue and the health of the community?
8. In your experience, do you think what James is saying about the tongue is accurate? Why do you say so? Give specific examples of your experience.

## APPLICATION

9. Share a time when you have hurt someone or been hurt by words. What are some methods that help you to avoid negative speech?
10. How would you describe the relationships we have within the church? How do you think it measures up against the biblical model of Christian community? What do you think this has to do with what we say to each other?

## REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

## DISCIPLESHIP IN COMMUNITY

- **Reflect and Pray:** Consider what your words say about who you are inside and what it says about your faith. As a group, ask God for forgiveness for how our tongues have inflicted damage and pain in our community, and ask God also for true wisdom so that our community will not be double-minded, but single-minded in our devotion to Him.

## PRAY FOR ORPC - LEADERS

- Pray that leaders would be led by the Holy Spirit in all that they do. Pray that leaders would have wisdom to follow the path that God sets forth for them and the church.
- Pray that leadership teams would be strong, tight-knit, and unified, that God would bring leaders together in love and friendship and respect.
- Pray that leaders will fix their eyes on God and His leading rather than all the things and situations going on around them. Pray that they would be refreshed by the Holy Spirit and that He would give them the strength to press on through the difficulty.
- Pray that God will raise up more leaders after his own heart.

**20, 27 February 2022**

**James 4:1-12**

**Living Rightly in Submission**

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Share about a time where you were involved in a disagreement or an argument. What caused the disagreement/argument? How was it resolved?

### **OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION**

Read James 4:1-5.

1. What does James say is the cause of the discord within the community (vv.1-2)?
2. James says that the reason for not receiving after asking is that they have asked with wrong motives, so that they may spend what they get on their pleasures. Why would God not answer such prayers? What does that tell us about their faith in God? Consider also James 1:5-8.
3. Verses 4-5 effectively identify James' readers as the double-minded mentioned in James 1:8. What is the message that he is giving to his readers here? Consider also Matt 6:24 and Rom 8:7.

Read James 4:6-10.

4. What does James urge his readers to do, and why?
5. There are 10 imperatives in vv.7-10. Many of these are synonyms for each other. What would you say is the core message that James has here? How is this an antidote to the issues that they face in vv.1-5?

Read James 4:11-12.

6. James explains his instruction to not slander one another by saying that it is equivalent to slandering the law. What law is he talking about, and why is it so unthinkable to slander this law? Consider also Gen 2:16.

7. Instead of slandering each other, what does the law of liberty call for us to do? Consider Jesus' words in John 13:35.

## **PUTTING IT TOGETHER**

8. Consider James 2:1-4:12. What is James saying is the core issue in this church that appears to be filled with discord? What is the solution he is prescribing?
9. In what ways do you see friendship with the world influencing the way the church relates to each other today?

## **APPLICATION**

10. Consider our motivations in our prayers and our interactions with each other. Are we also asking with the wrong motives and acting with the wrong motives? What does it look like for us personally to repent and seek God whole-heartedly now?

## **REFLECTION**

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

## **DISCIPLESHIP IN COMMUNITY**

- **Discuss:** Talk about how your small group will encourage each other to be friends of God instead of friends of the world. What warning signs of misalignment will you look out for? How will you remind each other?

## **PRAY FOR ORPC - CONGREGATION**

- Pray for ORPC to be a community where we seek to know God and to make Him known: we show God's love to one another, encourage each other to grow in godliness and to persevere in our faith, and work together to advance the Gospel, growing our community by reaching out to the lost.
- Pray for our congregation to reach out to those in need, within and outside of the church, to show care, offer spiritual encouragement, and to offer practical help wherever possible.