

## Family Worship Guide – Sunday April 7, 2013

### James 3: 1-12

#### Memorize

James 3: 10 – “From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.”

#### Read

Read James 3: 1-12

As Throughout the first two chapters of the book of James, we have heard the message that our lives should match what we say we believe. Our faith in Jesus should be accompanied by the fruit of good works in Christ. In chapter 3, we learn that not only should our actions match our beliefs, but also our words. James reminds his readers that the tongue is a powerful tool that can be used for good or evil. He compares it to a tiny rudder that controls where giant ships go. We must be very careful that our words reflect our faith in Jesus.

#### Questions:

- According to James 3:1, why should not many people become teachers of the Word of God?
- In the illustration James gives in verses 3-4, what do the bit in the horses mouth and the rudder of a boat have in common?
- What does James say is easier to tame than the tongue according to verses 7-8?
- It is sad to think that we use our tongues to both praise God and say sinful things. Have you ever been guilty of doing what verses 9-10 say?
- James had just discussed how true faith produces works that are pleasing to God. Discuss how he continues that idea of the fruit of faith in his discussion of fig trees and grapevines. In other words, what kinds of words should come out of the mouth of someone who loves Jesus?

#### Bottom Line:

Not only are our deeds the evidence of our faith in Christ, our words are as well. We must pray that God will help us control our words.

#### Sing

In light of these truths that God has revealed to us through his word, may our hearts be encouraged and compelled to worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This week our family worship song is **‘Blessed Be Your Name’**.

#### Suggestions

These suggestions were created as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should

prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

#### Preschool:

- Bring a pitcher of Kool-Aid and a pitcher of water to family worship. Let everyone have a cup and choose either the water or the Kool-Aid.
- As you pour the drink they ask for, ask them what will come out of the pitcher you are about to pour.
- Ask them why the Kool-Aid pitcher pours Kool-Aid and the water pitcher pours water.
- Show them from the passage that just like each pitcher pours what's in it, we say things from our mouths out of what's on the inside.
- Talk about how if we say we love Jesus we need to say nice things that reflect that.
- Pray and ask God to help each of you to be like Jesus in the things you say.

#### Children:

- Have a match or candle with you and light it, maybe even with the lights off. Ask what would happen if you were to take it and drop it in the forest.
- Talk about how amazing it is that one little fire on a match could burn down an entire forest.
- Show them how this passage compares the tongue and the words we say to a match. How is our tongue powerful?
- If our tongue is powerful, why should we be careful about what we say to others?
- How can the things we say reflect who we are on the inside?
- Who are some people in our lives that we can say mean things to?
- If Jesus is our Lord, why should what we say be pleasing to him?
- Pray as a family that each of you will allow good things to come from your mouths.

#### Students:

- What do all the illustrations that James uses to describe the tongue have in common?
- With these illustrations, what point is James trying to make about the tongue?
- Talk about several ways the tongue can be used to bring harm to others.
- If the tongue can be used in this way to bring pain and hurt to others, how should we as followers of Christ handle our tongues?
- Is it possible, according to James, to be a Christian and allow evil things to come out of our mouths? What illustration from this passage best paints this picture of the source of life in us producing life on our lips?
- Who are the people in your life that you tend to talk to with hateful words?
- Why do these people tend to get the most of your hateful words?
- What can you do in the future to make sure your words to these people build them up and not tear them down?
- Pray that God will allow you to only produce words from your tongue that are pleasing to Him.

## **Blessed Be Your Name**

### Verse 1

Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name

### Verse 2

Blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be Your name

### (PRE-CHORUS)

Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in  
Lord still I will say

### Chorus 1

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name

### Verse 3

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be  
Blessed be Your name

### Verse 4

Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name

### (BRIDGE)

You give and take away  
You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say  
Lord blessed be Your name

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