

## Grace Downtown CG Discussion Guide

May 20-23, 2019

Series: Faith Lives Here

James 3:1-18



### Announcements:

**Summer Getaway:** Join us for the Summer Getaway at Great Country Farms in Bluemont, VA. Enjoy playgrounds, wagon rides, a jumping pillow, farm animals, and more! Bring family and friends and make a day of it! **Saturday, June 22 from 10 am to 2 pm** at Great Country Farms, 18780 Foggy Bottom Road, Bluemont, VA 20135. Group tickets at the gate are \$8 for guests ages 3+. (Tell them you're with Grace Downtown).

**Network Worship Service and Members Meeting:** All three congregation of the Grace DC Network will meet for worship at **10:30 am** on **June 16** at Grace Meridian Hill, 810 Shepherd Street, NW. Worship will be followed by our annual members' meeting to vote on leadership candidates and review budget. There will be no 5 pm Downtown worship service that day.

**Civil Rights History Tour of the South:** Join us this summer for a Civil Rights History Tour of the South, led by the Grace Downtown Diaconate. The trip to **Georgia** and **Alabama** will be from **Wednesday 8/7 to Saturday 8/10**. Interest meeting will be held on **May 19** after service in the fellowship hall. Contact Meg at [megmontee@gmail.com](mailto:megmontee@gmail.com).

**Commons Intern Dinner:** All interns are welcome at Commons, a weekly dinner and discussion group near Capitol Hill. Beginning **Tuesday, June 4** at **6:30 pm** 807 Independence Ave SE. For more information contact Michael at [mlanger@ministrytostate.org](mailto:mlanger@ministrytostate.org)

### Introduction:

There is perhaps no better public indicator (to ourselves and others) of what's in one's heart than one's speech. Our words tend to reflect our hearts.

If someone met you for the first time, spent a week with you, and had nothing else to go by in his/her getting to know you than observing your speech, what would they say about you: words of encouragement or tearing down; words that are positive and hopeful or negative and critical; too many words or too few words?

### Read and Discuss:

#### James 3:1-18

#### Vv 1-12:

1. Put into your own words how James likens horse bits, ship rudders, and small fires, to the tongue. What is his main point here?
2. In what sense is the tongue difficult to "tame"?

3. What is James's main point in vv. 9-12?
4. How helpful is it for you for James to speak of the tongue as a 'thing' in itself, rather than simply discussing our words and speech?
5. Why do you think our speech is so important to our spiritual maturity?

### **Vv. 13-18:**

1. How does James describe those who live in a wise, godly way versus those who don't? (List the different adjectives that are mentioned for the two different lifestyles.) What are the consequences of both kinds of lifestyles?
2. Would you say you are generally more meek, wise, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, merciful, impartial and sincere...or bitterly jealous, with selfish ambition?

### **Application**

1. What kinds of things, practically, can we do to improve the way our tongue works?
2. How much actual control do we have over our tongues/speech?

### **Prayer**

*The Grace Downtown Prayer Team creates opportunities for our community to learn more about prayer together for our church family, our city, and our world. Throughout the coming week, the Prayer Team is asking our church community to pray...*

...for God to embed his living word in our hearts that we might be preserved from sinning against him and that his word would revive souls. Pray that God would grow a hunger and thirst within us to know him all the more deeply and to make knowing God our greatest study and love.

...for the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, the thoughts of our minds, and the actions of our hands and feet to be pleasing in his sight as he grows us into sayers, hearers, and doers of his word who love to run in the paths of His commandments that lead to true freedom and life.

...for those who are seeking God that he would make himself known personally to them. Pray for those who doubt God. May he would personally meet them in their doubting and reveal truths of his love for them as their Savior.