

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

James 3:1-18

Sunday, February 11, 2018

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What reason did James give when he advised that not many believers should become teachers?

Teachers will be judged with greater strictness and we all make mistakes.

2. Name two things that James compared the tongue to that his readers would understand? Name two things that you might compare the tongue to that people should understand where you live today?

James compared the tongue to the bit in a horse’s mouth and the small rudder on a ship that directs the horse and the ship.

The tongue may be compared to a steering wheel on a car, bus, or truck that steers moving vehicles. The tongue could be compared to a cellphone or a smartphone that is small but can spread people’s thoughts and words around the world.

If we used the tongue, the bit, the rudder, the steering wheel, and the cellphone rightly, much good could be accomplished and much evil prevented.

3. How can the tongue be compared to a small fire started in a forest?

Some “small” statement that is evil or unjust can spread and harm many people, just as a small fire can get out of control and burn down an entire forest.

4. How might the tongue cause problems in a church?

Some people in a church may be motivated by bitter envy or selfish ambition and say things to intentionally hurt others or to take unjust advantage of others.

5. What did James write about the behavior of those who are wise and understanding in a church?

The wise and understanding in a church will show forth a good life and do good works with a gentleness that demonstrates their wisdom. Their wisdom will come from above, from the Scriptures, from their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and from the right use of their reason. Their words and works will show forth purity and peacefulness, gentleness and cooperation, mercy and good fruits, and not be partial toward others or hypocritical. They will plant and reap righteousness and peace.

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