



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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James 3:1-12 Study Hints for Discussion

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?

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.

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

3. Where you live today, name two things that you might compare the tongue to that people should understand?

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. 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.

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

One person can neglect to put out a campfire or throw down a match and that fire, if not put out quickly, can burn down many square miles of forest, homes, businesses, and towns. It can kill plants, wildlife, ruin the habitation for wildlife, and kill people (even those trying to put out the fire). The tongue can do untold damage and must be quickly corrected.

5. How can the Holy Spirit make a difference in a Christian's life?

The Holy Spirit can help us think God's thoughts as we read the Bible, and the Holy Spirit can slow down our speech and help us not get angry when provoked so we do not misuse our tongues. I am sure you can think of other ways too.

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