

Youth Teaching Resources

September 13, 2015



Serious Church

True Faith — James 2:1-26

Pure Speech — James 3:1-12

Highborn Wisdom — James 3:13-4:10

Fervent Prayer — James 5:13-20

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www.nurturingfaith.net

Find links and videos related to this lesson.

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

TEACHER PREPARATION: YOUTH AND THIS LESSON

A Picture is worth a thousand words. We've all heard that cliché time and time again, mostly because it is true. The pictures and posts that students send out via social media reveals a lot about who they are and what they are thinking. This can be good because we have a more honest understanding of what our students are thinking. It can also have negative consequences, when what is posted doesn't paint the best picture of a student. If the author of James were writing today, they might also include pictures as well as the tongue. Our students use pictures to talk for themselves. We need to help our students realize what they post is a revelation of who they are.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

Begin your session by showing the clip "Walnut-sized Brain" from *Land of the Lost*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability, and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) How does the group think they have outsmarted the T-rex?
- 2) How does Will Ferrell's insults to the T-rex make the situation worse?
- 3) What could the group have been doing instead of insulting the T-rex?
- 4) When has what you have said gotten you in trouble?
- 5) How does what you say reveal who you truly are?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading James 3:1-12. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information from THE BIBLE LESSON, printed in *Baptists Today*.

When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Why would James address the particular situation with this church? How do you see these same things happening in the church today?
- 2) How do the illustrations James uses prove his point about the mouth's ability to guide a person? What other illustrations can you think of to prove this point?
- 3) What harmful things does James say words can lead to? What other results can you think of that have happened because of what someone has said?
- 4) How does James' "strong voice" of this passage prove his point?
- 5) James uses the example of cursing to make his point about the power of language. How is cursing the opposite of what followers of Christ are supposed to do?

If your group would like to continue their discussion on this passage, share some of the insights provided in "Digging Deeper" and "The Hardest Question" (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide).

Transformation

Conclude your session by challenging the students to write letters of apology. Explain that the power of words can be destructive as well as healing. If you feel that your students are up to it, create a confession wall where students can post confessions that can be taken down after each session.

Close with a prayer asking for forgiveness for the things that we have said.