

Bible Study 9 – Controlling our language – James 3:1-12

Verbal abuse is the excessive use of language to undermine someone's dignity and security through insults or humiliation, in a sudden or repeated manner. It ranges from anger to forgetting on purpose. Even the silent treatment is a type of verbal abuse! Verbal abuse can cause stress and depression and hurt mentally or emotionally. Other dangerous ways of speaking include lying, gossip, slander, rumour, malice, envy, fault-finding, vengeance, innuendo, insinuation etc.

The context	This letter was written to Jewish Christians who had been scattered by persecution (1:1; 8:1; 11:19). The theme is that Christian faith expresses itself in a life of godliness. It addresses: persevering through trials & temptations, obeying God's Word, discriminating against others, and putting faith into action. Now we will see that a good measure of Christian maturity is how we control our language – the words we speak.
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PART 1 Read & summarise each section – James 3:1-12

Teachers (v.1)	
Controlling language (v.2)	
Language is powerful (v.3-8)	
Consistent language (v.9-12)	

PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage

1. What I learnt about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

2. What I learnt about people like us.

3. Summarise a key verse in your own words.

4. In your opinion, what are the most important biblical principles being taught?

5. Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?

6. Give an example of how we can:
- Use language for good purposes

- Use language for evil purposes

7. Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?

There is great power in what we say. Let's learn to control the words we speak.



Obey

Since God's word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?
What must I do to obey?

I will
I will
I will

Questions to help me apply this study to myself

- Is there a *SIN* for me to avoid?
- Is there a *PROMISE* from God for me to claim?
- Is there an *EXAMPLE* for me to follow?
- Is there a *COMMANDMENT* or *MODEL* for me to follow?

Share

Who will I tell about this Bible passage?

Prayer

Date:

One thing you are thankful for.

One thing that's bothering you.

Is there anything this group can do to help you?

Person	Prayer points

Who needs help? What can we do to help over the next two weeks?

Person	How will I help them?

