



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson Summary for August 17, 2008  
Released on Wednesday, August 13, 2008**

**"Speak Wisely"**

**Lesson Text: James 3:1–10, 13–18.**

**Devotional Reading: Proverbs 15:1–4; 16:21–24.**

**Background Scripture: James 3.**

**Place: from Jerusalem**

**Time: about A.D. 45**

**GOLDEN TEXT: "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10).**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: James 3**

1My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

2For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

3Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

4Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

5Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

7For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

8But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON**

People who want to control others should work instead on controlling themselves. This is the concise summary of James 3.

We are sinful and selfish by nature. At salvation God gives us a new nature; however, only by His power can we as Christians become like the Lord Jesus Christ in words and actions.

If we love God, we will also love each other. We are made in His image. We cannot love God and also speak evil of good men.

Envy and wisdom cannot reside in the same heart. One is from the devil; the other is from God. Those who are meek and seek peace will show other evidence of the Spirit in their lives (cf. Gal. 5:22–23).

### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach the students to be careful to speak wisely.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. We must control our tongues.
2. The words we say can badly hurt or greatly help others.
3. If we love and obey God, His Spirit will help us speak wisely.

**PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:**

For Beginning the Lesson, make two sample crafts from Helping to Remember.

For Helping to Remember, you need white cotton gloves (size small). Cut off the top 1 ½ -inches of each finger to make a puppet for each child. (Or make puppets from 1 ½ -by-2-inch papers rolled into tubes and taped.) You will also need markers (and possibly tape).

**BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

(Put a finger puppet on one finger of each hand. Move one as Ruth talks and the other as Nancy talks.)

"I am not going to play kickball with you anymore!" yelled Ruth.

"You always want your own way!" hollered Nancy. "You are just a spoiled baby. Nobody wants to play with you anyway!"

"Just go home!" Ruth said as she stomped into her house.

Nancy's mother heard the words that the girls yelled at each other.

"Nancy, did you ask Ruth to come to Sunday school tomorrow?" she asked quietly.

"I was going to ask her, but Ruth was not nice today. Bob tagged her before she touched home plate, but Ruth said she was safe. She always wants her own way."

"I heard the unkind words you said to each other, Nancy. You did not speak wisely. Now it will be very hard to invite Ruth to church."

Nancy hung her head.

"I am truly sorry, Mother. Telling Ruth about Jesus is so much more important than winning a game."

The words we speak every day are full of power. They have the power to hurt people or to help them.

**TELLING THE LESSON:**

It is easy to think we know more than someone else. We like to think we are smarter and know the best answer. Nancy was convinced that Ruth was wrong and being selfish. But Nancy also was wrong and wanted her own way. As a Christian, she should have controlled her tongue. The book of James talks about controlling our tongues. (Find James in students' Bibles.)

A horse is much bigger and stronger than a man. (Show picture.) It goes wherever it wants. However, when the rider puts a little bit into the horse's mouth, he can make that horse go whichever direction he wants it to go.

Think about a ship out on the ocean. (Show picture.) One man can control the path of the ship with a small rudder. Turning the rudder makes the huge ship go right or left.

Although your tongue is a very small part of your body, it is a very powerful part. The Bible tells us that if a person can control his own tongue, he will be able to control all of himself.

God wants us to control our tongues. The words we say can hurt other people badly. If we are not careful, our words will turn others away from coming to know Jesus.

A little match thrown carelessly on the ground might start a blazing forest fire. In the same way, unkind words stir up trouble. It is easy to sin with our tongue.

The tongue also can be very helpful. When someone tells you that you did a good job, you are encouraged to do a good job the next time.

People have tamed bears, lions, fish, birds, and even snakes. However, people find it hard to tame their own tongues. Only God can help us speak wisely. If we say we love God, we will not speak evil of good people. We will not envy others or stir up trouble and fights.

The Holy Spirit helps us be like Christ. We will speak words of truth. We will be reasonable and easy to talk to. We will live in a true way. Our lives will show that we really do love God. We will speak wisely.

#### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

What wise words could Nancy have said before getting angry? (Discuss.)

What wise words should she speak to Ruth now? (Discuss. "I am sorry I spoke unkindly. Will you forgive me?" "I really do like to play with you. Will you come play house and help Mom and me bake cookies?")

If Nancy speaks wisely to Ruth, she will be able to invite her to Sunday school once again.

#### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Give each child a glove finger (or paper tube). Tell them to draw facial features on their finger puppet with the markers. Let students use their puppet to respond to the following question. What wise words could be said in the following incidents? Your sister takes away your toy. Mother calls when you are busy with a project. A new neighbor moves in next door. Someone makes fun of your friend.

#### **EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:**

"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10).

We cannot say we truly love God and then speak evil words about other people. That is sin. We should speak wisely and kindly.

#### **LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:**

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## MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:

### "Speak Wisely" (James 3:1–10, 13–18.)

#### MEMORY VERSE:

"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10).

#### CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

1. "My brethren, be not many [**MAKERS, MASTERS**], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation." James 3:1

2. "Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may [**OBEY, OBSERVE**] us; and we turn about their whole [**MIND, BODY**]." James 3:3

#### TRUE OR FALSE:

3. The tongue is a big part of a human's body and can be easily controlled.  
**TRUE or FALSE** James 3:5–6

#### CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

4. "For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the [**WORLD, SEA**], is tamed, and hath been tamed of [**MANKIND, ANIMALS**]." James 3:7

5. "But the [**TIGER, TONGUE**] can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly [**POISON, SNAKES**]." James 3:8

#### TRUE OR FALSE:

6. From a Christian's mouth should come only blessings and kind words, not cursings and unkind words. **TRUE or FALSE** James 3:10

7. Where there is envying and strife in a person's life, there will also be found confusion and evil work. **TRUE or FALSE** James 3:16

8. The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.  
**TRUE or FALSE** James 3:18

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"Speak Wisely"**  
(James 3:1–10, 13–18.)



Memory Verse:  
"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10).

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"Speak Wisely"**  
**(James 3:1–10, 13–18.)**

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Match the correct word in the first column with its scrambled self in the second column.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. tongue       | a) noisop      |
| 2. ships        | b) singslesb   |
| 3. mouth        | c) miswod      |
| 4. member       | d) mutho       |
| 5. fire         | e) reohs       |
| 6. tame         | f) kapes       |
| 7. poison       | g) threaly     |
| 8. control      | h) guenot      |
| 9. kind         | i) drin        |
| 10. blessings   | j) dogo strifu |
| 11. cursings    | k) spihs       |
| 12. peace       | l) rebmem      |
| 13. earthly     | m) krow        |
| 14. confusion   | n) reif        |
| 15. good fruits | o) doby        |
| 16. body        | p) caepe       |
| 17. wisdom      | q) lotcron     |
| 18. speak       | r) sciofnuno   |
| 19. work        | s) meta        |
| 20. horse       | t) singsruc    |