

# SPEAK LIFE!

James 3:1-12

## Words that discourage, hurt, anger, repel

### Misusing our words

*We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.* James 3:2

We all slip

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.* 1 John 1:8

Our words reveal our faith

*“For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”* Matthew 12:37

### The power of our words

- Bits lead horses
- Rudders steer ships
- Sparks start huge fires
- Evil leads to death

*Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.* James 3:6

*“What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.”* Matthew 15:11

***The tongue has the power of life and death***, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Proverbs 18:21

### The rebellious nature of our words

*All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, **but no human being can tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.* James 3:7-8

*“All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.* Romans 3:12-14

### Double-Mindedness: blessings and insults

*With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.* James 3:9-10

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.* Ephesians 4:29

### A new song – words that speak life

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* 2 Corinthians 5:17

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and **self-control**.* Galatians 5:22-23

*I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit...**He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.*** Psalm 40:1-3