

SERIES TITLE

Authentic Faith

SERIES OVERVIEW

No other New Testament book is quite like James. Real, raw, sometimes radical, and always practical, James offers up some of the most unfiltered, straightforward, and memorable sound bites ever recorded in human history. More than anything, James helps us see what our faith looks like when it's lived out authentically with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Join us this weekend as we begin our journey through these life-shaping truths.

SERMON TITLE

Open Wide and Say AHHHHH!

SERMON SUMMARY

This week's message focuses on controlling our words and tongues, drawing from James 3:1-12. Using the metaphor of a tongue depressor, he highlights how our words reflect our spiritual health and urges the congregation to be intentional with their speech.

WARM UP

What's a hobby or passion of yours that brings you joy outside of this group?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read James 3:1-12

What are some examples of how our words can powerfully impact others, both positively and negatively?

Can you recall a time when someone's words had a significant impact on you, either positively or negatively? How did it affect you?

How can we practice being 'quick to listen and slow to speak' in our daily lives?

What are some practical steps you can take to improve your listening skills and ensure your words are thoughtful and considerate?

Why is controlling our tongues not just a matter of behavior but also a matter of spiritual transformation?

How have you seen the connection between your words and your spiritual growth? What steps can you take to invite God into this area of your life?

How can we use our words to bless and affirm others?

Can you think of specific ways that you can use your words to build up those around you? How can you make a conscious effort to do this daily?

How does [Matthew 12:34-35](#) help us understand the connection between our words and our hearts?

What do your words reveal about your heart? Are there areas in your life where you need to ask God for help in changing your heart and, in turn, your words?

WRAP UP | PRAYER

- Ask God to help us apply the sermon to our lives throughout the coming week
- Pray for awareness of our speech and how it affects others
- Seek forgiveness for any hurtful words we have spoken
- Ask for the power of God to transform our hearts and help us control our tongues