



## GOING DEEPER AT HOME

### MAY 22: TONGUE

If you've spent any amount of time with kids you know they can say some of the funniest things and often they have no idea that what they just said is funny. Our words communicate a lot, whether we are telling a joke, relaying information or unfortunately, when we are upset and we say things that are hurtful. We may very well have experienced the piercing reality of toxic words, whether they were spoken to us or we spoke them. James points out that a mature follower of Jesus is someone who knows the destructive power their words have on people and they know how to control their tongue.

#### SCRIPTURE:

James 3:1 - 12

#### GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS:

1. What is something cute or funny you heard a child say?
2. What is something from the message that stood out to you, was new to you or challenged you?
3. Why do you think James cautions people about becoming a teacher? Why are teachers "judged more strictly?"
4. What do you think verse 2 has to do with verse 1? Is it explaining the behaviour of poor teachers, excusing them, or just generally instructing us? Why do you say this?
5. Read verses 3 - 6. Do you think these 3 examples are fair? Why or why not?
6. What do you think James means in verse 6 when he writes "it (the tongue) is set on fire by hell itself"?
7. Share a time someone's words were toxic & the impact that had on you (you do not need to go into great detail). Share a time someone's words were life giving & the impact that had on you. Which story is easier to remember & why?
8. How is controlling our tongue a sign of spiritual maturity? How can we begin to control our tongue?
9. Who is the Holy Spirit inviting you to speak words of life to this week?