

## **Journey Group Discussion Questions**

*(For the Week of September 30<sup>th</sup>)*

**Opening Ice Breaker:** Often children imitate our words and actions. Sometimes that's a good thing, and sometimes that's a bad thing. Please share with our group a humorous time when you heard a child say something inappropriate that they learned from an adult around them. Maybe it's your child, maybe not. You can change the names to protect the innocent.

**Leader Tip:** Below you will find two sets of questions. One will take you through reading and discussing a chapter in James, and the other will take you through life application questions from this past Sunday's message. Please use these questions as a tool to lead discussion in your group. Understand you, as the Journey Group leader, have total freedom to adjust these questions in any way to help facilitate discussion and understanding within your group.

### **James Chapter 3 - Discussion Questions**

**Read aloud 3:1** – Now read aloud **Deuteronomy 6:4-7**. How does your interpretation of James verse one make you feel about the role & responsibility you have in the Deuteronomy passage?

**Read aloud 3:2-12** – Why do you think it's so difficult to control/tame our tongues? What are some practical things you have done in the past to help control words coming out of your mouth?

**Read aloud 3:13-18** – As a group look at the passage of Scripture and compare and contrast "earthly wisdom" and "wisdom from above". What are the major differences you see between the two types of wisdom presented here? Based upon James 1:5-8 how do we gain wisdom?

### **Sunday Morning Message - Discussion Questions**

1. Describe a time in your life when someone shared encouraging and uplifting words to you that impacted your life for the better. It could be a coach, counselor, pastor, teacher, etc.
2. In his message, Pastor Chris shared this old saying, "Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." For those who are comfortable sharing, has there ever been a time in your life in which words impacted you negatively? Please share.
3. Please share a time when you have regretted saying something negatively about someone else? How did those words impact your relationship with that person?
4. Read Matthew 12:33-34. Pastor Chris summed up these verses by saying, "Our words reveal our hearts." For those who are comfortable sharing, what was the condition of your heart when you spoke those words we discussed in Question #3? (i.e. Based on what you spoke, was your heart surrendered to Jesus or to something else? If so, what? Anger? Frustration? Disappointment? Etc?)
5. Read Psalm 119:11. Pastor Chris shared 6 ways to put God's word in our hearts: 1. Hear God's Word. 2. Read God's Word. 3. Study God's Word. 4. Meditate on God's Word. 5. Memorize God's Word. 6. Do what God's Word Says. Which of these 6 ways is most difficult for you personally? Why?
6. Read Ephesians 4:15-16. Describe a time when you have had to confront someone with truth in love or a time when someone had to confront you in love. How did the words that were shared motivate you to change and draw you closer to God?

Close with prayer, asking God for His strength to submit your hearts to Him, and therefore, submit your words to His life-giving power with all those you interact with.