



# LENT

## THE WAY OF REPENTANCE

WEEK FOUR: FOR MARCH 15 SERMON

# JAMES 3:1-12

## OPENER/LENT CHECK-IN

How has your time in the Lent practices been this week? Has there been anything specific you have learned or enjoyed about this process? **Leader, make sure to celebrate the work God is doing in your people's lives. Don't hesitate to close this part of the discussion with a prayer of thanksgiving for how good God has been to you and your people.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do we learn about God/Jesus from this passage?
2. What do we learn about man/us from this passage?
3. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?
4. Recall a time when you've hurt someone with your words. What was motivating you? **Be prepared for "The Blame Shift." When people describe a conflict, they naturally frame themselves as the victim or the reasonable responder. I suggest you model this first. If you say, "I snapped at my kids because I value my comfort more than their growth in that moment," it gives the group permission to be that vulnerable.**

5. *What is one way you can avoid the sins of tearing down speech this week? What is one way you can use building up speech? **Using an IF/THEN approach to responding to temptation will help your group move past generic comments like “I’ll be nicer” to “If I feel the urge to complain about my boss, then I will stop and find one thing I am actually grateful for in my job.”***

## **PARTNER PRAYER TIME** split into pairs

- Discuss question 5.
- Pray for one another: Pray for one another’s words
- Since James 3 mentions that “no human being can tame the tongue,” remind the pairs to pray specifically for the Holy Spirit’s help. We aren’t just trying to “be better” through willpower; we are asking for a heart change that naturally overflows into better speech.