

Anything But Normal, Week 4

Scripture and Background Information for June 6-13.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we'll be looking at **James 3:3-6**. Remember, James writes his letter to believers. In today's text, we see James's focus on how faith saturates the believer's whole life. Salvation changes the believer, not only his thinking but also his speaking. The actions of believers are consistent with what they speak.

Information's for James 3:3-6

As said last time, James introduces his letter in the first chapter. All the following chapters continue with themes, James already introduced in chapter 1. Today's text is one of those recurring themes. A survey of the words "speaking," and "tongue" in the previous chapters are an enrichment for today's bible study.

Reading the context will also help to interpret the meaning of the pictures in verses 3-5.

Remember, chapter 2 speaks about the scenario, James produced, of fake love vs. real love.

Whereas real is sacrificial, fake love looks for the benefits of oneself. Faith is seen in the actions of real love (2:15-16). Real faith is seen in action, not in an empty talk (See 1:26--> where right speaking is seen as a sign for true faith)! Try to find the connection between works and speech.

When observing today's verses, try to recreate the picture, James is painting in these verses. Also, ask yourself how James uses the words "mouth" or "tongue." What do they stand for?

Side note: Bible chapters were added in the thirteenth century, verses only in the sixteenth century. Read the text repeatedly to find James's train of thoughts. The chapter-wide train of thoughts will help you find James's argumentation.

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

June 21

James 4:1-10

June 28

James 3:13-18