

STUDY 3. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1.
 - a. Can you remember saying something that “just popped out”, or a “whoops” moment? What were the implications?
 - b. What has been the nicest thing ever said to you?
 - c. What has been the most damaging thing ever said to you?

2. **See Proverbs 10:20, 31,12:18-19, 15:4, 17:4,18:21, 21:23**
 - a. These and other verses from Proverbs refer to the tongue. Which one to you is the most striking?
 - b. Why do you think, in a book of wisdom, there are so many verses about the use of the tongue?

3. **Taming the tongue!**
 - a. What is your reaction to swearing?
 - i. I let fly now and then.
 - ii. Some words I will use and some I will not use.
 - iii. I never swear.
 - iv. I have to be worked up before I would swear.
 - b. Why do Christians generally back away from using bad language?

4. **Read James 3:1-12.**
 - a. James says that teachers (and the use of their tongues) will be judged by greater strictness. Is that fair?
 - b. “No one can tame the tongue?” Do you agree? Haven’t we all had times when you have held your tongue when you really have had so much that you wanted to say?
 - c. Have you ever been a victim of a crazy rumour? How did it start? What do such rumours teach us about the dangers of the tongue?

5. **Read Matthew 12:36, Colossians 3:8-10, James 1.21, 3:10, 12, 4:1-2.**
 - a. How does your mood or emotional state affect what you say? If you are feeling “grumpy” do you go quiet? Do you verbalize your anger?
 - b. When you say something that you later regret, what do you do about it?
 - c. Imagine you are angry about something and want to tell the person who has made you angry how you feel. How should you use your tongue?
 - i. Say nothing.
 - ii. Tell the person exactly what you feel?
 - iii. Let the issue go.
 - iv. Try and find a way to say it without damaging your relationship.

6. **See James 3:10 and I Thessalonians 5:11.**
 - a. Has anyone encouraged you lately?
 - b. Have you encouraged anyone yourself?
 - c. Is there anyone in your group that needs encouragement?

7. As a group pray that God may help you use your tongue to create good rather than harm, to encourage rather than destroy, to avoid the world of gossip and rumours and to control our anger from saying things that harm relationships.

O God, May we use our tongue to honour you, to praise you and so make a positive difference to our world.