

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Share with the Group

Has there ever been a time in your life when you were particularly hurt by something someone said? What made it hurtful? The content? The tone? The assumptions? etc.

What effect did this have on you or your relationships?

Read James 4:11-12

What do you observe in the text?

What themes, patterns, contrasts, & repetition do you see?

What questions arise from the text?

Try stating the main point in one sentence.

Read Matthew 7:1-5

What is Jesus saying here? What are the implications?

How does James' teaching echo or overlap with Jesus?

Read Ex 20:16, Lev 19:18, Dt 6:4-5, Ps 50

How do these passages relate to what James & Jesus say?

Talk About It

What counts as speaking against someone or judging them?

Why is wrong? What damage does it do?

How does our culture condone or encourage speaking against and judging? How does church culture do this?

How do we tend to justify these ungodly behaviors?

How might embracing the language and reality of "brothers and sisters" challenge and change our behavior in this area?

Read Proverbs 12:18; 15:1; 15:4; 29:11; & 18:21

How can these passages guide us in practically living out what James is teaching?

Live It

Last week James called us to humble repentance (Jm 4:1-10). Prayerfully consider how you have used your words towards your brothers and sisters in Christ. Where have you judged? How have you condemned? When have you lacked love? Confess these to the Father, and to the people you have wronged, and seek forgiveness.

As a group, come up with some specific actions you can take to help you avoid speaking against others. Then, choose one or two you will actually begin implementing this week.

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