

**The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – July 9 – 14**  
***Doing Life Together – Thriving in Babylon – Wisdom***

**MONDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** James 3:1-2

**OBSERVATION:** Some of our biggest regrets have to do with hurtful words we have said. We wish we could recall those words, but we can't. The damage is done. Conversely, some of our greatest joys can come from encouraging words we have heard others speak to us. Words have the potential for doing great harm or great good. What are some of the most memorable words that have been spoken to you? Why do you remember them?

**TUESDAY:**

**KEY VERSE** James 3:3-5

**OBSERVATION:** James uses three illustrations to help us see how powerful our tongue (the words it produces) really is: First, a horse has a wild nature. A horse wants to go his own way, but amazing enough, a bit in a horse's mouth can control this huge animal. Second, A small rudder is the instrument that steers a boat. Last, a small spark can start a huge forest fire. What's James' point? Our words have power and can be used to control ourselves and others. We must use them with care.

**WEDNESDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** James 3:6-8

**OBSERVATION:** Some people are verbal arsonists. They strike a match a little bit of slander; gossip; a verbal jab; a lie; or an insult and oh the fire it starts! James calls all this a restless evil, full of deadly poison (v. 8). Why are verbal attacks like poison? There are many ways our tongue can be like a wild animal. Some struggle with cursing or profanity. Others struggle with gossip. Still others have an issue with boasting about themselves. In what ways have you found it difficult to keep control of the words you choose to say?

**THURSDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** James 3:9-12

**OBSERVATION:** When we hear "cursing" we think profanity. It could also be that James is saying people were quick to praise God and then "curse" someone, which would mean ask God to harm them. That makes sense of James examples of a well that cannot have both fresh water and salt water or a fig tree that bears olives (v. 11). "Cursing" someone is asking God to do something he is not going to do. Revealing who we really are: Here is the point. Our tongue reveals our true person. It reveals our bitterness, volatility, selfishness, judgmental attitude, hateful spirit, evil thoughts, self-righteousness, hardness of heart, hypocrisy, etc. It reveals our spirituality or lack thereof

**FRIDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** James 3:13-16

**OBSERVATION:** Wisdom is something that is rated very highly in the Bible. It is mentioned over one hundred times in the Book of Proverbs and many more times in the rest of the Bible. And so we shouldn't be surprised to find James having something to say on this important subject. Right living begins with right thinking. Often, we mess up by confusing wisdom with knowledge. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?

**SATURDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** James 3:17-18

**OBSERVATION:** Look closely at each of the descriptive terms that James uses to describe "the wisdom that comes from heaven"(v. 17-18) pure, peace, loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Look closely at these qualities one by one. Are they the qualities to which you have devoted your life? What makes the life filled with Godly wisdom so attractive? And then James closes this section with this comment: "Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." How is all this talk of wisdom related to being a peacemaker?