



In a World Full of Words

James 3: 1-6

Jordan Arnold

July 12th, 2026

1. How have you seen God working in your life or in the lives of others this week?

2. Read and re-read James 3:1–6 together.

3. What stood out to you most from Sunday's sermon or from James 3? Why?

4. The sermon argued that "words may be getting cheaper, but they have never become less powerful."

Can you think of a sentence someone spoke that changed the direction of your life—for good or for ill? Why do you think words carry such lasting power?

5. James compares the tongue to a spark, a rudder, and a horse's bit.

Which of those three illustrations speaks to you most, and why?

How have you seen small words produce disproportionately large consequences?

6. James warns that teachers will be judged more strictly because of their influence.

How should that change the way we pray for pastors, teachers, home group leaders, parents, and others who regularly teach God's Word?

Take a few moments during your group to pray specifically for Harpeth's teaching ministry.

7. The sermon distinguished between the formal teaching office of the church and the calling every Christian has to disciple others.

Who invested in your faith?

Who has God placed in your life that you could intentionally encourage, disciple, or help take a next step toward Jesus?

8. The sermon challenged us not merely to consume sermons but to become faithful listeners.

What does it look like to listen to God's Word with humility instead of simply evaluating the preacher?

What practical habits help you become an active hearer rather than a passive consumer?

9. This week, what is one practical step you will take in response to James 3?

- Will you intentionally encourage someone with your words?
- Pray daily for your pastors and teachers?

Finish your time together by praying:

- for Bobby, Jordan, and everyone who teaches at Harpeth,
- for God to raise up more faithful disciple-makers and teachers,
- and that each member of your group would use their words to bring life, truth, and encouragement rather than destruction.

Reminders:

- **Renew Creative and Renew Creative Kids:** Renew Creative (HCC Worship Team) has a brand new song out called “Faithful Faith!” Renew Creative Kids (DK) just released Volume 1 of their new Memory Verse Songs! Scan the QR codes to listen, or stream wherever you listen to music!



- **DK Teachers needed:** Do you have a heart for children and ministry? We are in need of DK Teachers and would love for you to serve on Sunday mornings as a **classroom teacher**! If this interests you, please email Shealey Sims at shealeys@harpethcc.com for more information!
- **Check Us Out:** Mark your calendars for our upcoming Check Us Out class! Check Us Out is a two-part class where you will hear more about what we believe and care about here at Harpeth, as well as a pathway to membership. Classes take place during the 9:00am service, so feel free to check your kids into DiscipleSHIP Kids and head on over. Coffee and bagels will be provided! Register by scanning the QR code below.



Part 1 - Sunday, August 16th at 9:00am

Part 2 - Sunday, August 23rd at 9:00am