

**Is That Gossip?**  
Core Group Discussion Guide  
08-20-2017

**Message Overview:**

This particular message is a look at what God has to say about gossip. The reason we are looking at this subject is because there has been some question about what is and what isn't gossip. Is it always wrong to discuss someone else's life? How do we know what is and isn't appropriate? This message will certainly not answer all the questions, but I hope we are able to have a better understanding when we leave Sunday morning.

The goal of the Core Group Discussion is to take a look at James 3:1-12 and take a broader look at how we use our words. This study was created by David Ahl and can be found at [www.BibleStudyMen.com](http://www.BibleStudyMen.com).

**Text:**

- James 3:1-12

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Before we move to our discussion for today, was there anything from the message that you had questions about or wanted to discuss?
2. **Read James 3:1 - 12**
3. Why do you think sins of speech often overlooked as not serious?
4. In Verse 3:2, James says, "if anyone makes no mistakes in what he says, he is a perfect man." Is anyone a perfect man? If not, what is James saying here?
5. Why is James emphasizing being perfect in Verse 3:2 and also back in Verse 1:4 ("be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing")?
6. How can we move closer to perfection? (Psalm 140:1-3, Psalm 55:17, Colossians 4:2) 7. In Verse 3:2, IS James talking about what we do say or what we don't say?
7. James gives four examples of a small thing controlling or overpowering a large one. What are they?
8. Why does he emphasize the negative example of the fire so much more than the positive examples of the horse's bit or ship's rudder? (Matthew 15:11, 18-19)
9. If no human being can control the tongue (Verse 8), why bother trying?
10. How is the power of words used by the Holy Spirit within a person of faith? (James 1:19-20).
11. How is our speech influenced by others around us? Do you think of yourself as mostly A) being influenced by the speech of others or B) influencing how others speak?
12. To Consider: What positive words do your friends and acquaintances need to hear from you this week? How can you remember to say these thing?