



RUDDERS - And - ROUTES

CHANGE YOUR WORDS AND CHANGE YOUR LIFE

LESSON 1 // TURNING YOUR LIFE AROUND

Big Idea: All of us need some kind of turnaround, and this requires a turnaround in our tongue. Your words must change if your life is going to change because your thoughts and words shape your life. Your words are the rudder of your destiny, so when you change your words, you change your life!

James 3:2-8 (TPT) *We all fail in many areas, but especially with our words. Yet if we're able to bridle the words we say we are powerful enough to control ourselves in every way, and that means our character is mature and fully developed. ³ Horses have bits and bridles in their mouths so that we can control and guide their large body. ⁴ And the same with mighty ships, though they are massive and driven by fierce winds, yet they are steered by a tiny rudder at the direction of the person at the helm. ⁵ And so the tongue is a small part of the body yet it carries great power! Just think of how a small flame can set a huge forest ablaze. ⁶ And the tongue is a fire! It can be compared to the sum total of wickedness and is the most dangerous part of our human body. It corrupts the entire body and is a hellish flame! It releases a fire that can burn throughout the course of human existence. ⁷ For every wild animal on earth including birds, creeping reptiles, and creatures of the sea and land have all been overpowered and tamed by humans, ⁸ but the tongue is not able to be tamed. It's a fickle, unrestrained evil that spews out words full of toxic poison!*

Group Discussion: This weekend we learned that our words have a direct impact on our future. Let's discuss some highlights from this weekend's message.

- Proverbs 18:21 says "death and life are in the power of the tongue". Often times death of the tongue can be a word of discouragement or unbelief causing hopelessness. Life giving words can be words of encouragement, hope and potential spoken over someone. Can you share a time you've experienced this, either as the person receiving or the one giving?
- Pastor Dale talked about how words are not a magical "fix all". It's not about becoming a superficially positive person but about reconstructing our thinking and speaking in a way that honors and agrees with God. Read **Romans 12:2, Colossians 4:6, and Ephesians 4:29** and share thoughts as a group.
- What are some verses or phrases we can start incorporating in our days to speak life over ourselves and others?

Prayer Focus:

Pray that this week God would help you receive and apply what you've learned concerning the power of our words. Ask the the Holy Spirit would lead you to use your words to bless and give life to those around us.