

SHOULDA, WOULDNA, COULDA

Part 4

Key Scriptures: James 3:1-12; Isaiah 6:6-7

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Many of us are not strangers to disasters. What is the worst disaster that has affected you?
- What/who are you most thankful for in light of any disasters you have been through?

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How can you be the person people are thankful for in the midst of a disaster?
- James states at the beginning of Chapter 3 that, “we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways.” Does this mean we should just step back and not try to teach others about the Bible/Jesus? Why or why not?
- What huge things are controlled by very small things? (horse/bit; boat/rudder; etc.) What small things exert pressure/control on you? (Kids; other’s opinions; public image; etc.)

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Disasters aren’t limited to natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires... what is a disaster that your words have caused?
- Have you ever said something you should have never said . . . And those words TURNED the whole conversation in a direction that you really didn’t want it to go? How do you rescue that?
- How do you prevent yourself from saying destructive things to others?
- James 3:9-10 describes how we can praise God in one breath and then curse people who are made in His image in the next. When have you done this? How do you prevent it from happening again?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray for the people your tongue has harmed. Pray for humility to seek forgiveness and to extend forgiveness to others.
- Pray that Christ be the center of your conversations, whether explicitly or by the love, peace, and patience that you share with those around you.
- Pray for healing for those who have had harmful words spoken to them so much that they have no idea that they are valuable to God. And pray for the opportunity to speak encouraging, life-bringing truths to them.

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- In Isaiah 6:6-7, Isaiah’s sins were atoned for, verse 8 states, “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” Know that God has sent you to speak the Good News into the lives of the people around you. Remind someone in your life of how valuable they are to God!