

## The Taming of the Tongue

Discussion on what homegroup felt were the main points from Donaldson's preach

- That we were created in God's image
- God is a creative God
- Power of words
- What we say about ourselves
- What others say about us
- What God says about us

The power of words and the use of our tongues: Study on verses

Power of Words

- Genesis 1:3 God said and it came into being
- Hebrew 4:12-13 God's word is a double edged sword
- Luke 4:1-4 Jesus defeated or defended himself against Satan in the desert by quoting Scripture

Trying to highlight that there is huge power in God's words. But there is also power in the words that we speak. Think of the power of propaganda – that would be a negative example. Think of the power of prophesy – positive example! Promise of Jesus.

Proverbs are filled with warnings about foolish talk, gossip and slander. Words can be very divisive, and hurtful.

- 1) Proverbs 12:17-19
- 2) Proverbs 15:1-4
- 3) Proverbs 18:6-8
- 4) Proverbs 18:20&21
- 5) Romans 1:28-32 : Wow, gossip is truly undesirable

Two witnesses

There is a concept which comes from the Old Testament, that need two witnesses to establish something as truth:

*Deuteronomy 19:15: One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

This is carried into the New Testament, in Matthew 18:16 it refers back to Deuteronomy.

This shows us how we should live in community. But consider this, if someone says something and you agree with them, then you are becoming the second witness to it. So be careful about what you agree with.

Encouragement to speak truth. How do we speak truth = by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
God honours the Truth

- Ephesians 4:21-32
- Psalm 15

We should be aware when we use negative and destructive speech, and rather use words that are positive and encouraging. Proverbs 25:11: A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

In the letter James, written by James – probably the brother of Jesus

- James 1:26
- James 3 (whole chapter)

Let's focus on James 3