

## Argyle Study Guide, Decoding James, part 16, 02-05-2023

1. Read James 4:11-12

2. “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” is just not true. Words CAN hurt you. In fact, words can actually destroy those who have been slandered. Have you ever been on the wrong end of slander?

3. Noah Webster defined slander this way: “A false tale or report maliciously uttered, and intending to injure the reputation of another, by lessening him in the esteem of his fellow citizens, by exposing him to impeachment and punishment, or by impairing his means of living.” Put that definition into your own words.

4. The Bible has a lot to say about slander.  
Read Proverbs 10:18 and 1 Peter 2:1  
How can you make a practical application of these verses?

5. Read Ephesians 4:31-32. Discuss.

6. James encourages us to examine Four areas of what we believe.

1. What we believe about others
2. What we believe about God’s law
3. What we believe about God
4. What we believe about ourselves

Discuss each point.

7. The essence of the law is loving others.  
When Jesus was asked about what is the greatest commandment, Jesus said, “Love God. Love others.”  
When we express love for each other, we have kept the law.

8. We can choose to have worldly speech. Worldly speech discourages others.  
Worldly speech is self-centered instead of God centered. Gossip and slander can destroy a church.

Or we can choose to have Godly speech. Godly speech encourages others and exalts God.  
It’s the kind of speech that comes from a heart that loves God and loves others.