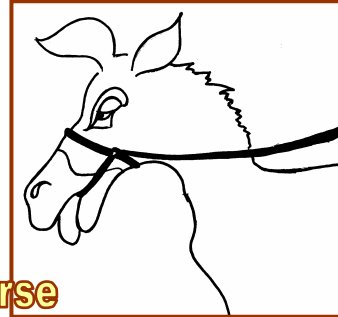


Little Tongue-Big Fire

James 3:2-18 (International Children Bible)

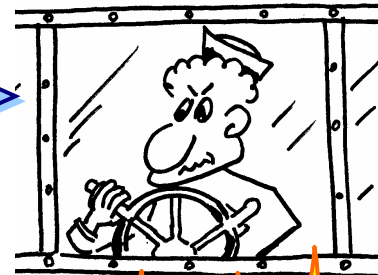
"We all make many mistakes. If there were a person who never said anything wrong, he would be perfect. He would be able to control his whole body, too. {3} We put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us. We can control their whole bodies.



A very nice horse



{4} It is the same with ships. A ship is very big, and it is pushed by strong winds. But a very small rudder controls that big ship. The man who controls the rudder decides where the ship will go. The ship goes where the man wants.



James 3:5-12

{5} It is the same with the **Tongue**. It is a small part of the body...

but it brags about doing great things. A big forest fire can be started with only a little flame. {6} And **the tongue is like a fire. It is a whole world of evil among the parts of our bodies. The tongue spreads its evil through the whole body. It starts a fire that influences all of life. The tongue gets this fire from the devil.** {7} People can tame every kind of wild animal, bird, reptile, and fish, and they have tamed them. {8} **But no one can tame the tongue.** It is wild and evil. It is full of poison that can kill. {9} **We use our tongues to praise our Lord and Father, but then we curse people.** And God made them like himself. {10} Praises and curses come from the same mouth! **My brothers, this should not happen.** {11} Do good and bad water flow from the same spring? {12} My brothers, can a fig tree make olives? Can a grapevine make figs? No! And a well full of salty water cannot give good water.



Words that hurt

James 4:7,8 10-12 (Paraphrased)

"So give yourselves to God. Stand against the devil, and the devil will run away from you. {8} Come near to God, and God will come near to you {10} Don't be too proud before the Lord, and he will make you great. {11} (Boys and girls), **do not say bad things about each other. If you say bad things about your brother or sister, your friends or classmates, you judge them with your tongue. When you do this you are saying bad things about the Word of God (Instructions that God gives us in the Bible). You must not become somebody else's judge! {12} God is the only One who should judge people. He is the only Judge. He is the only One who can save and destroy. So it is not right for you to judge your neighbor."**

Ephesians 4:29-32

"When you talk, do not say harmful things. But say what people need--words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will help those who listen to you. {30} **And do not make the Holy Spirit sad.** The Spirit is God's proof that you belong to him. God gave you the Spirit to show that God will make you free when the time comes. {31} **Do not be bitter or angry or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil.** {32} **Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ."**

Saying bad things hurts everybody,



and makes the God the Holy Spirit very sad.

Ephesians 5:1-4, 8-10

"You are God's children whom he loves. So try to be like God. {2} Live a life of love. Love other people just as Christ loved us. Christ gave himself for us--he was a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God... {8} In the past you were full of darkness, but now you are full of light in the Lord. So live like children who belong to the light. {9} Light brings every kind of goodness, right living, and truth. {10} Try to learn what pleases the Lord."

Saying good things to each other
makes everyone feel very happy!

