



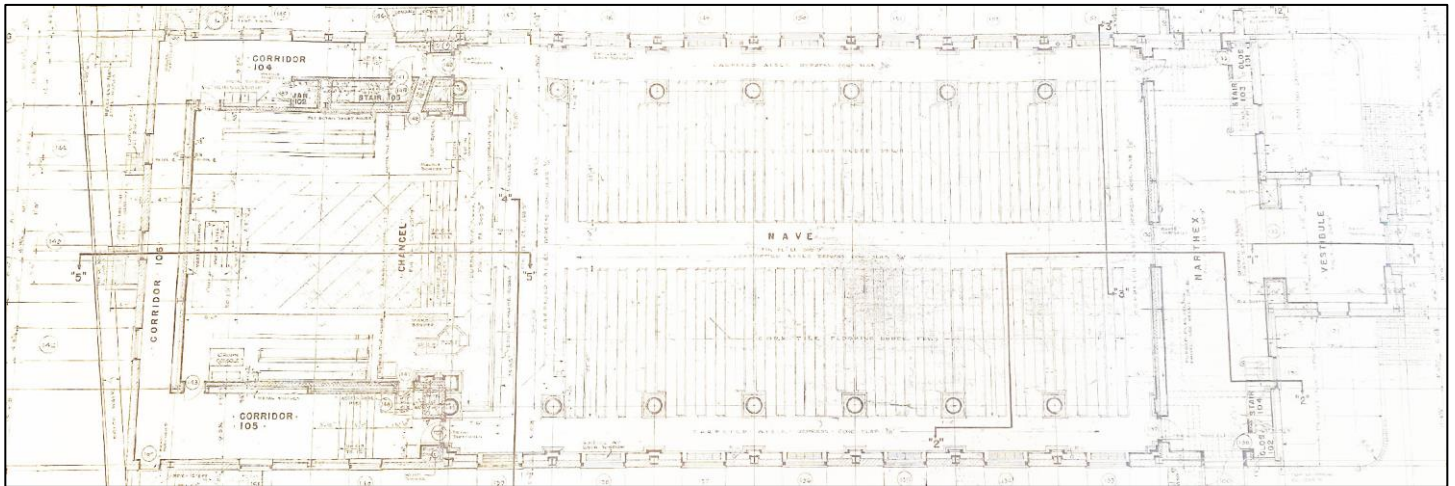
# REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at [www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc](http://www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc).

**September 18-24, 2023 | Sermon Series: "Let's Get Real!"**

**Week 3 Sermon: "A Real Problem: Taming the Tongue" by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon**

**Use the blueprint space of Reville's sanctuary below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.**



**Join us for The Compass!** This new Sunday school class meets at 9:30 am (chapel), 10:30 am (fellowship hall), and 4:00 pm (room 206). The class will challenge believers to actively engage, examine, and participate in three core competencies: Relationship, Study, and Discipleship. Inspired by the GPS Weekly Scripture Guide, attendees of The Compass will learn how to more intently and intentionally apply these competencies in their everyday lives and practices. For more information, email Bayo Ogungbade, [adulthooddiscipleship@reveilleumc.org](mailto:adulthooddiscipleship@reveilleumc.org).

- **Relationship:** Opportunities to meet others, relate with one another, learn together, build bonds, and share in the journey of life.
- **Study:** Opportunities to more intentionally engage with the Scriptures and examine how to apply them to your life.
- **Discipleship:** Opportunities to put faith into everyday practice and live out as believers who are grounded in Scripture.

## **Monday, September 18: Read James 1:19-26**

Few people embrace James' classic words we read today better than Abraham Lincoln: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." His Gettysburg and 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural addresses, famously etched into the walls of the monument, speak with classic brevity to the healing of the nation, in all the anger of the Civil War. In this Sunday's small groups, we will watch a video of Pete in front of the Lincoln Memorial, speaking to the importance of these simple but incredibly difficult to implement words from James.

Pete's sermon will remind us, once again, of the criticality of our speech. James tells us that we need bits in our mouths, and we must tame our tongues. The sermon will help us to think about it so that we are more like Lincoln, and less like the worst of our contemporary culture.

- **Relationship, Discipleship, and Study Opportunities:** We invite all to participate in a small group, such as one of our existing Sunday school classes, our new Compass group (Sundays at 9:30, 10:30, or 4pm), or one of the many weekday or Sunday evening opportunities to gather to learn, love, and serve one another.

## **Tuesday, September 19: Read James 3:1-6**

Today's passage about "taming the tongue" causes most of us to stop in our tracks. Who among us has not "set a forest ablaze" by speaking an unwise word in anger or haste? How many of us wish we could go back and swallow our words...on several occasions? This Sunday, we will be given a chance to lay our regrets on the altar, writing down something we wish we had not said, and giving it to God. What habits can we put into place to bridle our tongues?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *We invite everyone to "go and be reconciled" (Matthew 5:23-24) with a person who has been burned by our tongue. Who deserves an apology?*

## **Wednesday, September 20: Read Colossians 4:2-6**

One of our beloved former ministers at Reveille had a plaque hanging in her office that said, "Lord, please put your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth." We know we cannot fully control our tongue on our own. It is through prayer that we can find the right power, the right words, and the right attitude to "let our conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt" as in today's reading. Let us all devote ourselves to prayer as our first line of defense against our own untamed tongue and our greatest source of wisdom and strength for finding the right words that heal, empower, and encourage.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Let us incorporate a specific prayer about taming our tongue several times a day: In the morning, at meal times, and a quick breath prayer in advance of the most challenging moments we know are coming.*

## **Thursday, September 21: Read Ephesians 4:25-29**

Falsehoods, anger, and unwholesome talk are major culprits for our untamed tongues, as Paul powerfully addresses in his letter to the Ephesians. We are all "corrupted by deceitful desires;" are we standing sentry at the gate of our mouths to ensure they do not form themselves into words, where they can do some of the worst damage? If we find ourselves ruminating in anger over a perceived wrong, let us replace the internal rehearsal of what we could *really* say to them (come on, you know you do this!) with a breath prayer until the words of anger are replaced by God's words in our heads.

- **Study Opportunity:** *Google "Bible verses about taming the tongue" and see how many other verses come up. Pick a favorite one and memorize it. Share it with someone else...possibly right when you are tempted to say something else you might regret.*

## **Friday, September 22: Read Proverbs 17:27-28**

How interesting that "knowledge" and "understanding" are mentioned in today's Proverbs as keys to finding even-tempered restraint with our words. How often have we spoken out of turn, only to later discover that we did not have a full understanding of the situation and jumped to a conclusion? How can we first "stay silent" and listen to gain an understanding of another's situation, thought process, or motivations before jumping in to put in our two cents...probably coming off as foolish, brash, and insensitive?

- **Relationship, Discipleship, and Study Opportunity:** *Do some research on "active listening skills" and "empathetic listening." Practice whatever you learn with someone in your household, someone at your work, and someone you encounter for the first time this week. Share what difference it made with your small group.*

## **Saturday, September 23: Scripture Memorization: James 3:5b-6a**

"How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is fire."

## **Sunday, September 24: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying our Prayer of**

**Confession:** *Almighty God, have mercy on us. We have said things we should not have said. We have not said things we should have said. Our tongues have been the spark that has sent forth a blaze of anger. We have not listened, and we have been too quick to speak. By your grace cleanse our hearts and our words. May the same voices that praise you today, be a fountain of hope and encouragement to all whom we encounter for we ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*