



Welcome to  
**The Bridge Community Fellowship**  
Sunday Worship Service

May 31, 2026

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The Bridge Community Fellowship • 7503 E. Parker Rd • Lucas, Tx 75002 • [jointhebridge.com](http://jointhebridge.com)  
Email: thebridgecommunityfellowship@gmail.com

**James: A Faith That Works**  
**Week 5 – Taming the Tongue (James 3:1–12)**

**Big Idea for This Week:** Our words have the immense power to direct and destroy, revealing the true condition of our hearts. However, Jesus offers us the grace to cleanse our hearts and transform how we speak.

**1. The Power of Words (James 3:1-12)**

- Teachers and leaders must be incredibly careful with their words, knowing they will be judged with greater strictness because of the weight of their influence.
- Words direct our lives. Just as a small bit controls a massive horse and a tiny rudder steers a cargo ship, seemingly small words lead to identity-shaping and destiny-creating decisions.
- Words can destroy our lives. Like a single spark that sets a 47,000-acre forest ablaze, our tongues can be used as weapons of verbal arson to crush dreams and incite bitterness.
- Life Group & Personal Study Questions:
- Think about the "rudder" of words in your life. What are three of the most encouraging things people have ever told you, and how did those words shape you?
- Have you ever experienced or witnessed the destructive "wildfire" of uncontrolled words? What was the result?
- Why is it that the people we love the most are often the ones who receive the most careless words from us?

**2. The Use of Words (Wisdom from Proverbs)**

- Proverbs tells us that "death and life are in the power of the tongue." We have a choice in the words we consume and produce.
- Wisdom guards our lips by choosing precise and careful words over impulsive ramblings. We must consider not just what to say, but when and how to say it.
- We are called to offer careful coaching rather than cruel criticism, and to speak courageous truth rather than participating in cowardly gossip.
- Life Group & Personal Study Questions:
- Which of the specific Proverbs warnings do you struggle with the most: impulsive ramblings (Proverbs 10:19), reckless words (Proverbs 13:3), thoughtless timing (Proverbs 27:14), foolish joking (Proverbs 26:18-19), or cowardly gossip (Proverbs 20:19)?
- Looking at the chart above, what is the practical difference between a "butcher" and a "surgeon" when correcting someone (Proverbs 22:10)?
- Read Proverbs 18:21 together: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits." Based on the verses we looked at today, what is one practical way you can intentionally speak "life" into someone's situation this week?

**3. The Challenge of Words (Matthew 12:34-37)**

- Your tongue is directly connected to your heart. Our mouths simply function as a drainage pipe for what is already inside us.
- Jesus warns that our words perfectly reflect our hearts, and on the day of judgment, we will give an account for every careless word. Our own conversation transcripts would condemn us.
- We do not just need a vocabulary change; we need a heart change. Jesus perfectly spoke the truth and absorbed the wrath for all our sinful words on the cross so that our hearts could be made new.

**Life Group & Personal Study Questions:**

1. Why is it a myth to say, "I am sorry, I didn't mean that" after saying something hurtful? What does Jesus say our words actually reveal?
2. How does knowing that Jesus absorbed the penalty for every careless word you have spoken change how you approach repentance and grace?
3. **7-Day Challenge:** For the next week, whenever you think of something good, encouraging, or kind about someone else, say it! How can you hold each other accountable to this?

**Breakfast and Fellowship at 9:15 AM • Worship Service at 10:00 AM and streamed live every week**

Find Faith. Build Friendships. Follow Jesus.

At The Bridge, our desire is to connect people to God and one another through the hope of the Gospel. Whether you are exploring faith, looking for a church home, or just checking things out, we want you to know you're welcome.

## Announcements

(If you have announcements to add in the future, please notify Kay Gribbin)

**The Bridge Website has been updated!** – Updates and new content are regularly added to our website, [jointhebridge.com](http://jointhebridge.com).

**New Sermon Series and Life Groups Continue** – What does faith look like in the real world? This May, we are diving into the book of James for a new sermon series exploring "boots-on-the-ground" Christianity. To help us live out these practical truths, we are also excited to launch 10-week Life Groups; one on Sunday following services and one on Tuesday (Truth Seekers) at 6:30 pm. This will be an incredible opportunity to take what we learn on Sundays, apply it to our everyday lives, build genuine friendships, and grow in faith together. We hope you will plan to join us for one or both of the groups.

**Contact List Update** – Copies of the Contact List are available on the welcome table. If there are additional changes or additions to be made, please notify Kay Gribbin.

**Camp Copass Snack Donations** – The students will be attending Camp Copass June 29-July 3. We'll be collecting donations of snacks and drinks beginning Sunday, May 31, and through the month of June.

**Feed My Starving Children** – Everyone is invited to sign up and join us as we serve on Wednesday, June 17, at 7:15 pm. For more information, please talk with Kurt Sadowshi.

**Save the Date** – "Coffee and Conversations: Honoring Our Veteran Heros" events that will be hosted at the church. Please share the detail with any area veterans who might enjoy joining us.

- Saturday, August 15, 9:00 am – Coffee and Donuts
- Saturday, November 7, 11:30 am – Coffee and Sandwiches

**Connect Cards** – Are you a visitor or new to The Bridge? We would welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

**LET'S CONNECT**

Name

Home Address


How can we contact you?

Phone

Text

Email

DOB (DD/MM)



### Leadership at the Bridge

- Kyle Van Tine, Lead Pastor
- Mike Boese, Director
- Dirk van der Woude, Director
- Gregg Wooding, Director
- Kay Gribbin, Church Administration
- Rita Montgomery, Finance Team Leader
- Kerry Krueger, Worship Leader
- Amie Smolka, Hospitality Leader
- Kurt Sadowski, Community Outreach Leader

### Ways to Give Your Tithes and Offerings

Thank you for your continued financial support of The Bridge Community Fellowship.

- Cash/check can be placed in the White Church in the Sanctuary
- Zelle through your financial institution to:  
[thebridgecommunityfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:thebridgecommunityfellowship@gmail.com)
- Mail to The Bridge Community Fellowship, P.O. Box 1762, Wylie, Tx 75098

### General Operating Account Monthly/YTD Income vs Expense 2026

	April	YTD
Actual Income	\$ 9,828.98	\$58,330.10
Actual Expenses	<u>\$10,069.86</u>	<u>\$42,595.52</u>
Difference	-\$ 240.88	\$15,734.58

### Jesus Showed Up

#### The Bridge Community Fellowship Community and Missions Outreach Plan for 2026

We are excited about new partnering opportunities this year and a renewed focus with several of the organizations we've supported in the past. Going forward, we'll be using this space in our weekly announcements to highlight information, opportunities and successes.

- **Feed My Starving Children** is Wednesday, June 17.
- **VITAS Healthcare, "Coffee and Conversations: Honoring Our Veteran Heros"**
  - Saturday, August 15, 9:00 am
  - Saturday, November 7, 11:30 am