***WATCH YOUR WORDS***

***Opening***

* *Do you tend to speak your mind or hold your tongue?*

***Understanding God’s Word*** (James 3:1-18)

* *Why does James say what he does about teachers?*
* Teaching is a spiritual gift. *What does Heb 5:12 tell us about the role of teaching in the church?*
* The tongue is influential for good or bad outcomes. *Say more about why the words that come out of our mouths are very powerful.*

***Making Application***

* *What things can we do to help control our tongue?*
* *How can we use our words to help rather than hurt?*
* Consider the teaching opportunities you have today. *What’s necessary to do first before we “teach” anyone?*
* Optional*:* 
  + *What can we learn from the example of spiritually-gifted teachers who have helped us grow?*

***Praying & Next Step*** (each member choose one)

* Make a list of words and phrases that could be a blessing to people. This week send someone a word of encouragement.
* Next time you’re about to say something unhelpful, stop, wait and imagine that Jesus is next to you. *Then share with a friend why you might have said something hurtful.*