**“Watch Your Mouth”**

3-Fold Purpose: ***Love God, Love Others, Serve the World***

One Mission: ***Make Disciples***

4 Commitments:

***Shaped by the Word***

1. Did you get into trouble by something you said this week? Share an incident from this week or the past. What important lesson did you learn?
2. Share something that challenged or convicted you from Sunday’s sermon.
3. Read James 3:1-12.
   1. What is the most significant thing to you regarding the tongue from this passage?
   2. What factors contribute the most to you misusing the tongue?
   3. What factors contribute to you using your tongue in a positive, uplifting way?

***Surrendered to His Will***

1. Verses 3-6 use the metaphors of bits and rudders to illustrate how seemingly insignificant yet powerful the tongue is.
   1. Share a story in which you’ve observed this to be the case?
   2. Have you seen the opposite to be true? Explain.
   3. When you consider the great good or the great damage that can be incurred by the tongue, what do you learn about the importance of being surrendered to God?

***Connected to His Spirit***

1. Fire can be both destructive (forest fires) as well as constructive (shaping metals). One telling reference is at Pentecost (Acts 2) when “divided tongues as of fire” rested on the disciples and they

were filled with the Spirit, sharing the gospel in various languages.

* 1. To what degree have you found your control of the tongue is in direct relation to being connected to the Holy Spirit?
  2. Is what you say more often a reflection of your nature or God’s nature within you? Use this question as a reference point for open and honest group discussion.
  3. James states frankly in v. 8: “no human being can tame the tongue.” Have you been trying to do this in your own strength?

***Building His Kingdom***

1. Do you need to offer an apology to someone to whom you hurt by what you said? If so, write their name down and commit to asking their forgiveness this week.
2. Is there someone you need to bless by offering encouraging words to? Write this person’s name down and commit to speaking to them this week.
3. In what way(s) do you need to allow God to renew you in order for you to use your tongue to build up others and advance his kingdom?

Weekly Scripture Memory

*The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.* Luke 6:45 (ESV)