“Put Your Hands Up”
For the week of July 23 - 29, 2017

Warm Up:
What is the nicest thing someone has ever said about you?

Open in Prayer

Main Thought:
God has created us to partner with Him in building His kingdom here on Earth. The two primary tools that God has given us are our words and our actions. What we say and what we do have the power to make a difference in the lives around us. In Daniel, when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were told to bow before King Nebuchadnezzar’s golden statue, they stood firm in their words and in their actions. After responding with faith to God and going through the burning furnace, they left unharmed – protected and saved by God. Following that, Nebuchadnezzar’s heart was immediately humbled. God stood for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego because they stood for Him with their words and their actions. What we say can make a significant impact in our own life and the lives around us when we choose to stand for God with our words and our actions.

Main Passages:
“It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.” (James 3:5-6 MSG)

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” (Acts 20:24)

Scripture Exploration:
• Reflect on James 3:5-6, what is an example of not building a person up with the words that come out of our mouth?
• Reflect on Acts 20:24, what does it look like to testify the gospel of God’s grace?

Personal Reflection:
• How has someone used their words or actions to build you up? How has it negatively broken you down?
• Share about a time that you encouraged someone with either your words or actions in a desperate time of need and pointed them back to God.

Active Application:
• How can you live your life to make a difference with your words?
• What actions will you commit to do in either school, work, or in the community to lead people to God?

Close in Prayer:
• Pair with someone in your group and pray that your words and actions will be used by God to impact the lives around you.