Date: 1/21/17

Title: Stay Out of the Trap

Theme: Don’t let Satan catch you in his trap.

Object: Animal friendly trap to catch without killing small animals like squirrels.

Text: 2 Cor 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

What do you think the devil looks like?

Sometimes you’ll see cartoons of the devil or people dressed up like the devil.

Here’s a picture I got off the internet of what someone thinks the devil might look like.

But the Bible says that Satan doesn’t appear like an ugly monster that you’d be afraid of. In fact, the devil is invisible.

Instead, the Bible says he tries to appear as an angel of light.

The devil tries to make you think that He’s good, and he just wants you to have a good time and have lots of fun.

But what he really wants to do is trick you and make you sin.

The devil wants to make you follow him instead of Jesus.

Now I want to tell you about a problem that I have had at my house the last few weeks.

When my wife was in the back bedroom trying to sleep, one night she heard some scratching and scratching up in the attic above the ceiling.

So we thought there was something up in the attic: maybe mice or squirrels or something.

So I got out this old trap that I had to try to catch whatever was up there.

And do you know what I caught? I caught about 8 baby squirrels.

So I went outside and looked for a hole where they were coming in.

I did find a hole and you could see scratch marks around it. It was big enough for a baby squirrel to get through but not big enough for the mother squirrel. So I think the mother was pushing them through the hole so they would have a warm place to stay.

I patched up the hole so I hope there will be no more squirrels or mice in the attic.

Let me show you how this trap works. [Explain the mechanical function of the trap.]

Now how do you get the squirrel to go in the trap and step on the trigger?

You need some bait for the trap.

What do squirrels like to eat? Nuts!!! So I used peanut butter for the bait.

They love peanut butter! So I put the trap up in the attic with peanut butter on the trigger.

[Act out the squirrel smelling, finding, and going into the trap.]

So the bad news for the squirrel is that he’s caught in the trap and can’t get out; the good news is that while he’s in there he can eat all the peanut butter he wants.

This trap reminds me of the way the devil tempts us to sin.

Instead of telling us how bad sin is, he tells us how much fun it’s going to be.

He makes sin seem like it’s going to be fun. “It’s going to be like eating peanut butter and Jelly, or like eating M&M’s, or like eating ice cream.”

He tries to make us think it will be fun to disobey our parents, or to make fun of another kid at school, or tell a lie to get another kid in trouble, or steal a toy that belongs to someone else.

So we go into the devil’s trap, thinking it’s going to be like eating candy, and BAM! The trap closes, we have disobeyed God’s commandments, and the devil has us in a trap.

The sad thing is that some people don’t care. They just stay in the trap and eat all the peanut butter they can.

But God doesn’t want you to be carried off in the devil’s trap. He wants you to be free to follow Him.

So here’s the good news: Even if you get caught in the devil’s trap, Jesus can get you out.

He died for your sins on the cross, and He wants to forgive you.

If you love Him, and trust Him, and tell Him you’re sorry, He’ll forgive you and get you out of the devil’s trap.

How many want to stay out of the devil’s trap? Let’s tell Jesus we love Him today!