Date: 9/15/18

Title: Combination Lock

Theme: The Bible gives us the combination that sets us free from the devil’s trap.

Object: Master combination lock. Tag giving correct combination of three numbers.

Text: 2 Timothy 2:25-26 (NLT) 25 Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will learn the truth. 26 Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil’s trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

Did you hear what the Bible says?

People who don’t know the truth of the Bible have fallen into the devil’s trap.

And the devil tries to keep them captive, keep them locked up, so they won’t find Jesus and escape from the devil.

Do you want to be locked up by the devil? No! Never! We want Jesus to set us free.

In my bag this morning I have something very interesting. Who can tell me what this is? [Hold up combination lock.]

This is a combination lock.

When I went to high school, everybody had a combination lock.

In the hallway, everybody had a locker in which they would keep their books, their jacket, and their lunch. And we all had a combination lock so nobody would steal our stuff.

Now most locks have a key. But a combination lock has no place to put in a key.

Instead it has a dial with numbers that go from zero to 39, and this combination lock is opened by dialing in the three correct numbers.

These three numbers need to be combined or put together to open the lock.

Now how do we know which numbers are the correct numbers?

Well, when you buy the combination lock, it comes with this little tag on it that tells you how to work the lock and what the three correct numbers are. [Show tag with instructions and numbers.]

[Demonstrate how the lock is opened and how it doesn’t open if just one number is off by one.]

So what have we learned from this combination lock?

We need the right combination of numbers to open the lock.

Now let’s say we’re in the devil’s trap and he wants to keep us locked up so we’ll do whatever he wants.

Where do we find the right combination that will open the lock and set us free?

Instead of looking for numbers on a tag, we need to look in the Bible to see what it says about how to be saved from the devil.

The Bible gives us a combination of three things we need to be saved and set free from the devil.

First, we need God’s grace: For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. That’s grace!

God’s grace is allowing Jesus to die in our place for our sins.

Second, we need faith: Faith is trusting Jesus to be our Savior and forgive our sins.

It is our faith that accepts God’s grace.

Third, we need to tell Jesus that we’re sorry for our sins and ask Him to forgive us.

The Bible promises that if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Here’s the combination that opens the lock and sets us free from Satan’s trap: God’s grace (sending Jesus to be our Savior), our faith (receiving Jesus as our Savior), and our repentance for sin (asking God to forgive us).

How many want to get out of the devil’s trap? Let’s pray, and use the combination!