Date: 3/17/18

Title: Overcome Every Obstacle

Theme: Be faithful: never give up loving and trusting in Jesus.

Object: Candle, fire stick to light it, round glass tumbler drinking glass to be the obstacle.

Text: Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV) But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Here is the apostle Paul writing, and he says he has one goal in life.

And that goal is to live the Christian life in such a way that he wins the prize of being in heaven with Jesus.

The apostle Paul was a faithful Christian.

That means he never gave up loving Jesus, trusting in Jesus, and doing his best to obey Jesus.

Now the apostle Paul ran into a lot of obstacles. Do you know what an obstacle is?

An obstacle is something that blocks your way and makes it difficult to do what you want to do.

Here’s an example of an obstacle: [show picture] this giant maple branch broke off our tree and blocked our driveway so we couldn’t get our cars out to go anywhere.

During his life, the apostle Paul ran into all kinds of obstacles that tried to keep him from living for Jesus.

Here’s how he describes the obstacles that made life difficult for him:

24 Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. 26 I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. 27 I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

And he goes on and on about all the obstacles that he had to face in order to live for Jesus and tell others about Him.

Toward the end of his life he looked back and said, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith…”

He was faithful to Jesus; he never gave up; he found a way around every obstacle.

You know, boys and girls, that’s what God wants to see in our lives.

He wants us to be faithful to Jesus: He wants us to never give up loving Him and trusting Him and obeying Him.

Well, I’ve brought an obstacle in my bag this morning. Would you like to see it? [Drinking glass]

And I have here a candle that I’m going to light. [Light candle.]

Now it is very simple for me to blow out this candle if there is no obstacle in the way. [Do so & relight]

But what if I hold this obstacle right in front of my mouth?

You all know that I can’t blow air through this glass, so you might be thinking that I can’t blow out the candle.

But watch what happens. [Blow out candle and explain how air went around the obstacle.]

That’s what God will help us to do with every obstacle that tries to stop us from living for Jesus.

Do you want to live for Jesus like the apostle Paul?

Let’s ask Jesus to lead us around every obstacle so that we can live for Jesus every day, what do you say?