Date: 8/8/15

Title: Put God First

Theme: Your day will always be better if you begin it with God.

Object: Mason jar with small marbles and one giant marble. The marbles all fit only if the big one is put in first.

Text: Mark 1:35: Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Have you ever heard of the 10 commandments?

Who knows what the first commandment is? (Thou shalt have no other gods before me.)

This is God speaking, and He says that we should have no other gods before Him.

God wants to be first in our lives and He wants us to love Him more than anything else.

How many can say they love Jesus and our wonderful heavenly Father?

Now when Jesus lived here on earth, He always loved His Father in heaven more than anything else.

And one of the ways He kept His father first in His life was to begin each day with prayer.

The Bible text that we read this morning says that Jesus would get up early in the morning while it was still dark, find a place where He could be all alone, and there pray to his Father in heaven.

And then all through the day, as Jesus would go about doing good and healing people, He would pray little short prayers to stay connected to His Father all day long.

So Jesus sets this example for us.

To put God first in our lives, we should put Him first in our day.

Some people think they can wait to the end of the day to talk to God, and so they say a prayer right before they fall asleep.

But they have missed talking to God in the morning and at special times throughout the day.

How can you ask God to bless your day and be near to you when it’s already over?

So if we are serious about putting God first in our lives, we will put Him first in our day like Jesus did.

We need to make a habit of talking to Jesus when we first get up each morning.

Now I brought some things in the bag this morning to help us see the importance of putting God first.

This jar represents your day, and these little marbles represent the little things you do during a day.

You get out of bed, you put on your slippers, you go to the kitchen, you get out the cereal, you get out the milk…you get the idea.

This big marble represents God.

And at the end of the day, you put the lid on the jar and everything is supposed to fit.

If you can get the lid on, it’s been a great day. If you can’t get the lid on, you’ve had a bad day.

So let’s see what happens when we forget God until the end of the day. [Put big marble in at the end]

You see, when we don’t start with prayer, we have a bad day: the lid won’t go on.

Now let’s see what happens when we pray and put God first, and start our day with prayer.

See, everything fits and we have a great day because we started it with God.

How many would like to put God first and start each day with prayer?