Date: 6/19/21

Title: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Theme: Sin will suck the life out of you and kill you in the end.

Object: Hemlock branch infected with Woolly Adelgid.

Text: James 1:14-15 NLT - 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

We live in a world where we see the effects of sin all around us.

Sin is a killer, and this verse from the bible tells us that when sin is allowed to grow, it brings about death.

Sin is when we disobey God.

God has given us commandments in the Bible that tell us what is right and wrong.

And when we disobey God’s commandments, that is sin.

The terrible thing about sin is that it kills us in the end.

That’s why it is so important to be a Christian and trust in Jesus.

Because only Jesus can forgive our sins.

Who died on the cross for our sins? (Jesus)

Jesus, the Son of God, died for our sins so we can be forgiven.

And when God forgives our sins, He gives us eternal life instead of eternal death.

So when Jesus comes back, you get to go to heaven instead of the lake of fire.

Now I brought something with me today that reminds me of sin and what it does.

Remember our Bible verse said, when sin is allowed to grow it gives birth to death.

A couple of weeks ago, I noticed something growing on my hemlock trees.

And just like sin, if I don’t get rid of it, it is going to kill my trees. [Describe the hemlocks.]

Now that thing that is killing my hemlocks is called the Hemlock Woolly Adlegid.

It is a tiny bug that sticks its proboscis into the hemlock branch and sucks the sap out of the branch.

Eventually, this causes the needles to fall off the branch and without the needles, the hemlock tree dies.

[Show branch containing tiny white cotton balls. These balls contain eggs that hatch into a tiny little bug that sucks the sap out of hemlock branches. Show picture of bugs.]

Now what if I didn’t know that these little white puff balls contained eggs that hatched into beetles that would kill my trees?

My trees would be dead and I wouldn’t know why.

That’s why it is important to read the Bible and know God’s commandments so we can see if we have sin in our lives.

But just as important is knowing what to do if we discover we have broken the commandments and have sinned.

We can go to Jesus our Savior and tell Him we’re sorry and ask Him to forgive our sins.

And if we love Jesus and trust HIm, He will forgive us, take away our sins, and give us eternal life.

I have an appointment this coming Monday with B