Date: 5/16/2015 (Repeat 5/19/2018 Revised)

Title: Dandelions

Theme: Like dandelions, we need to get rid of sin before it takes over.

Object: Picture of dandelions at various stages. Plastic bag full of puff balls.

Text: James 1:15 (NIV) Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Wow! That’s pretty serious. The Bible says that sin leads to death.

Who can tell me what kind of flower is in this picture? (dandelion)

Some people may like dandelions and think they’re pretty.

Some people eat the green leaves of the dandelion plant. [Show drawing with leaves.]

Some people use the leaves to make tea and medicine.

But to me, dandelions are noxious weeds. I hate them!

If you’re not careful, they’ll take over your entire lawn, and instead of having grass, you’ll have only dandelions.

[Tell about the lawn in my previous yard in Hanover, MA. My yard there was nothing but dandelions.]

So when I moved to Atkinson, I made up my mind that I wouldn’t let the dandelions take over there.

So every time I see a yellow dandelion pop up in my yard, I run out with a sprayer and spray it with poison.

Dandelions start out as this pretty yellow flower, but they don’t stay that way.

After a few days they turn into these puff balls.

These puff balls are made up of lots of little seeds. [Show picture of seeds at center of puff ball.]

The wind blows them to another spot on the lawn and there they grow into a new dandelion plant.

Every time I see a puff ball in my yard, I go and pick it and put it in a plastic bag before the wind blows the seeds to another spot in the yard. [Show plastic bag full of puff balls.}

If you come to my house, you can help pick the puff balls and put them in a plastic bag.

But NEVER blow the puff balls!!!!

If you don’t kill the dandelions and pick the puff balls, pretty soon they take over your entire yard!

Dandelions remind me of sin: Sin is when we disobey God.

And if we don’t get rid of sin, the Bible says it will kill us.

If we just ignore sin, it will go to seed like this puff ball.

And we will be disobeying God all the time and we won’t care.

That’s why we need Jesus.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins, so when we tell Him we’re sorry He can forgive us and take our sins away.

Jesus can pick the puff balls of sin, so they don’t take over our lives.

How many would like to trust in Jesus to save them from their sins?

