Date: 1/31/15

Title: Let Your Light Shine

Theme: Live like Jesus, not like the world.

Object: Candle, dish, blue-dyed water, mason jar

Text: Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV) 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Here Jesus is saying something very important to His disciples.

He wants them to be different from the people who don’t know Jesus, who don’t love Jesus and who don’t follow Him.

Jesus is the light of the world, and those who love Jesus are like a light that shines in the darkness.

And if you love Jesus, you have a light that shines in the dark world around you.

So Jesus is telling His disciples here, if you love Jesus, act like Him.

Don’t act like people who don’t like Jesus, who don’t obey His commandments, who talk back to their parents or teachers, who lie, or steal, or use bad words, or make fun of people that are different or are mean and selfish.

Because when you act like the world, that’s like hiding the light that Jesus gave you.

Do you remember the song we sing: This Little Light of Mine… I’m gonna let it shine?

One of the verses goes like this: “Hide it under a bushel, no! I’m gonna let it shine.”

That line comes from this verse in the Bible. And it tells us to never hide our light.

Always act like Jesus, never like the people who don’t love Jesus.

Now I brought with me an experiment today that will help us understand what happens when we hide our light under a bushel. Do you want to see it?

[Set up experiment. Candle goes out when jar is placed over it. It creates a vacuum inside the jar that holds the dish of water up. When the vacuum is broken, the water rushes in and makes the candle wet. But when we get close to Jesus (lighter) we can burn bright again.]

So what did we learn from this experiment?

When we put our light under a bushel or under a jar, our light goes out.

When we act like the people who don’t love Jesus, our light goes out.

We can’t show them how good Jesus is if we are acting like the world instead of Jesus.

The second thing we learned, is that when we put our light under a bushel, it’s hard to get it off again.

Once we start acting mean and selfish, it’s hard to turn around and act like Jesus again.

The third thing we learned is that if our light goes out, we need to go back to Jesus and get it lit again.

Do you want to hide your light under a bushel? No!!

Let’s let our lights shine for Jesus, what do you say?