Date: 9/8/18

Title: Operation Rescue

Theme: God wants to use us to lift others toward Him.

Object: Clear tumbler size glass, hard boiled egg, salt, table knife for stirrer

Text: Matthew 5:13 (NIV) 13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

Did you hear what Jesus said here?

He wants His disciples to be like salt.

How many like salt? Do you think salt makes food taste better?

Do you think pretzels would be good without salt? How about potato chips without salt? Would you like popcorn without salt? How about corn on the cob without salt?

All kinds of food tastes way better with salt on it.

So when Jesus tells his disciples that they are the salt of the earth, He wants them to make life better for the people they come in contact with.

And how can we do that? By loving them and treating them the way Jesus would.

When we love God and love others, we make the world a nicer place for everybody.

But there’s also another way in which we can be the salt of the earth.

How many like science experiments?

Today we’re going to do an experiment with salt that will demonstrate the effect of density on the buoyant force. Does that sound interesting?

[Get out objects; fill glass with water.]

Now I’m going to put this egg in the water. Do you think it’s going to float or sink? [take a vote] (It sinks like a rock.)

Now this egg at the bottom of the glass represents a friend of ours who doesn’t know Jesus.

And if you don’t know Jesus, you’re drowning in sin because your sins can’t be forgiven.

So what can we do for our friend here that doesn’t know Jesus or how Jesus can forgive his sins?

We can be like salt! Jesus said you are the salt of the earth.

So let’s get in there with our friend and see if we can rescue him from drowning in sin. [Add salt; start stirring continuously]

Now in this experiment it takes time for the salt to dissolve in the water.

The same is true of our family and friends. Many times people don’t change right away. But God doesn’t want us to give up on them.

I think of that wonderful hymn we sing: Love Lifted Me. Listen to the words: I was sinking deep in sin, Far from the peaceful shore; Very deeply stained within, Sinking to rise no more; Then the Master of the sea, heard my despairing cry, From the waters lifted me now safe am I. Love lifted me, Love lifted me, when nothing else could help, love lifted me; Love lifted me, love lifted me, when nothing else could help, Love lifted me. [By this time the egg should be floating.]

What happened to the egg?

It used to be on the bottom drowning in sin, but now it’s floating on the top where it can see Jesus and be forgiven.

If you and I are Christians, we should be like this salt.

By loving others and telling them about our Friend Jesus, we can lift others from sin to the Savior.

How many want to be like salt? Let’s love our friends enough to lift them up toward Jesus.