Date: 10/31/15

Title: You have been Chosen

Theme: Jesus has chosen you to be on His side. You can say Yes or No.

Object: Baseball glove, ball, bat, World Series

Text: John 15:16 (NIV) 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last…

Have you ever played on a team?

There are two very important teams playing a very important series right now.

Have you ever heard of the World Series? The World Series is the championship playoff in baseball.

And this year, the New York Mets and the Kansas City Royals are playing the World Series.

The series is up to seven games long, and whichever team wins four games first is the champion.

The winner will be crowned the best baseball team in the world.

When I was a kid I loved to play baseball. [Show glove, ball, and bat. This is all you really need]

During the summer we would get a bunch of kids together and go down the ball field.

And if we had enough kids, we’d pick up teams. Do you know how to pick up teams?

The two best players would be the captains and they would take turns picking others to play on their team.

How do you determine who picks first? (Rock, paper, scissors; eene, meenie,…)

[Demonstrate hand over hand up the bat.]

Now when you’re choosing a team, you always choose the best player that hasn’t been chosen yet.

And finally it gets down to the worst players that nobody really wants.

And you say, “OK, we’ll take Billy.” And then you put Billy in right field because you know that he’s really not very good at all.

Sometimes you have to feel sorry for the kids that are picked last, because everybody knows they are not really very good.

I never got picked last in baseball, but soccer? Ha! When they’re picking up I say, “Hey, don’t pick me. I stink at this game.” I never played soccer when I was a kid; I don’t even know the rules.

Did you know that Jesus has a team? The Bible calls Him the “captain of the army of the Lord.”

And do you know who’s the captain of the other team? Satan, the devil.

These two teams are fighting for something more important than the World Series.

They are fighting to see who will rule the universe.

So Jesus and Satan pick up teams.

But it’s not quite the same as it is in baseball or soccer.

Jesus wants everybody to be on His team, so he chooses everybody.

But you know what? Satan does the same thing. He wants everybody to be on his team so he chooses everybody too.

So which team are we going to be on?

If you say “yes” to Jesus, that you love Him and trust Him, and want Him to be your Captain, then you’re on Jesus’ team.

If you say “no” to Jesus, then you’re on Satan’s team.

Do you know that most people are on Satan’s team. His team is really, really big.

But Jesus’ team, though it is a lot smaller, is really good, and our Captain is the best player in all the world.

Seventh game of the World Series. Bottom of the 9th inning. Two outs. Our team is up to bat. We have the based loaded, but we’re losing 6 to 3. And who steps up to the plate? Jesus our Captain. First pitch…Whack. Over the left field fence! We win 7 to 6. Jesus is King of the universe.

Do you want to be on a winning team? Then let’s say yes to Jesus right now, what do you say?