Date: 1/2/16

Title: Party in Heaven

Theme: There is great joy in heaven over one sinner that repents.

Object: Paraphernalia from New Year’s Eve party. Hat, horn, glasses, poppers, cookies

Text: Luke 15:10 “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Do you know this is the first Sabbath of the new year, 2016? Happy New Year!!!!

2015 is gone forever! 2016 is now here!

And we are one year closer to the year when Jesus will come again!

Have you ever heard of a New Year’s Eve party? Have you ever gone to one?

Our family went to a New Year’s Eve party the night before last, and we had a really good time.

It was at Teacher Ruth’s house, and her daughter Terri was there with her son Jake and Terri invited several of her friends over with their families and Ruth’s sister came.

We played some really fun games like Catch Phrase, Trouble, and Jenga.

Do you think we ate any food? Woah! We had fresh pineapple, green pepper slices, potato chips, taco chips, popcorn, Jello cake, apple crisp, and cookies: chocolate chip cookies, but I brought the rest of the lacy oatmeal cookies. You can take one after the children’s sermon.

Now at a New Year’s Eve party, everyone is waiting for the exact hour of 12:00 midnight.

According to Roman time reckoning, that’s when one day ends and another begins.

And on December 31, that’s when one year ends and another year begins.

So at midnight, everyone wants to do something to celebrate the new year. So what do you think we did?

Well in NYC, there’s this giant ball that comes down in Times Square. It starts a minute before midnight and just at midnight it hits the bottom and that signals that the new year is here.

So everyone turns on the TV to watch the ball come down in Times Square, NYC.

And we wear a funny hat like this…and funny glasses like this… and we have horns to blow to celebrate the new year… and we get ready to pull the strings on our poppers.

So at midnight, everybody makes noise, and yells Happy New Year, and sets off their poppers, and hugs their friends. It’s a great celebration!

As I was thinking about New Year’s and all the celebrations going on all around the world, I wondered what was going on in heaven?

Do you think God and the angels celebrate New Year’s Eve?

Do you think Gabriel was blowing his trumpet to bring in the new year?

As we consider what’s in the Bible, I really don’t think so.

The new year never began on January 1 according to the way the Bible keeps track of time.

And we know from the Bible that one day ends and the next day begins at sunset, not at midnight.

So there would be no reason to celebrate at midnight.

No the Bible doesn’t say anything about celebrating New Year’s in heaven.

But it does say there is something very important that they do celebrate in heaven.

Listen again to Luke 15:10: “there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Did you hear that? When one sinner trust Jesus as his Savior, repents of his sins, and is forgiven, they throw a party in heaven. There is great joy and celebration in heaven.

That’s a great reason to have a party, don’t you think?

Let’s trust Jesus as our Savior so they can have another party in heaven today, what do you say?