Date: 8/29/20

Title: Joy in Heaven

Theme: There is great joy in heaven when one sinner repents and trusts in Jesus.

Object: Bottle of Bt (Bacillus Thuringiensis) and new leaf of cauliflower plant.

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

Jesus loved to tell stories.

In the Bible they’re called parables.

In one particular story, a woman had ten silver coins.

One day when she counted all her coins, she found she had only nine.

She was so sad and disappointed that she wanted to cry.

But she decided to look really hard for the lost coin.

She lit a lamp so she could see under all the furniture, and she took a broom and swept her house until she found the lost coin.

And when she found it she was so happy that she called all her neighbors and friends together and told them, “Rejoice and be happy with me for I have found the coin that was lost.”

And Jesus ended the story by saying, “In the same way, there is great joy in heaven over one sinner who repents and trusts in Jesus.”

Did that ever happen to you?

Did you ever lose something and you couldn’t find it and it made you sad, but later you found it and you were glad? [Tell about Bella losing the clicker for the TV and how Eli found it. And they were really happy.]

I think that’s happened to all of us.

I had something like that happen to me this week.

You know a few weeks ago I told you about my garden and how these caterpillar worms had infested all of my broccoli plants.

So I pulled them all our of my garden and threw them all on the mulch pile. I only got one head of broccoli to eat.

Then the white cabbage butterfly laid her eggs on the kale and the cauliflower leaves.

And you remember the cauliflower leaf that I brought in: it was nothing but holes.

I was so sad and disappointed.

I went out and bought this organic biological pesticide that has a certain bacterium in it called bacillus thuringiensis.

It’s harmless to humans but it makes the caterpillars sick and they stop eating and die.

After I sprayed it on the kale and the cauliflower, all of the caterpillar worms are gone, and the plants are growing again.

And instead of being sad and disappointed, I am happy and hopeful.

We can have kale chips again with kale leaves that don’t have worm holes in them, and maybe we will even get a head or two of cauliflower before the cold weather comes.

So I am here to tell you today that this pesticide really works!

It stops the caterpillars that were destroying our garden.

You know what else really works?

Trusting in Jesus to protect you from the “caterpillars of sin” that Satan wants to use to destroy you.

There is joy in our house because our garden is growing again.

And Jesus said there is joy in heaven when one sinner trusts in Jesus and repents of his sins.

When you love and trust Jesus, He will make sure the devil doesn’t destroy you.

How many want to put on Jesus today and end up in our Father’s house instead of the mulch pile?