Date: 4/15/17

Title: Surprise!

Theme: The most wonderful surprise for the disciples was the day Jesus rose from the dead.

Object: Gluten-free pretzels, thin crunchy corn chips, trick can of mixed nuts.

Text: 1 Cor 15:3-4 (NIV) For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

Do you like surprises?

I think that’s one of the reasons kids like birthdays and Christmas so much.

Their presents are wrapped up, and they don’t know what it is until they open it and are surprised.

You hope it’s a good surprise like a toy that you really like, not a bad surprise like sticks or coal or a rotten potato.

Sometimes you can be surprised by snack foods.

For me, any snack food that has garlic powder in it is a really bad surprise.

A long time ago, I tried a Dorito chip. Agggghhhh. What a bad surprise! I couldn’t get the taste out of my mouth fast enough. Sure enough, it had garlic powder in it.

About a month ago, someone offered me an avocado chip. It was supposed to be like a corn chip with guacamole dip.

I tried one. Aggghhh. I couldn’t get to the garbage fast enough to spit it out. I looked at the bag and it had about a hundred ingredients in it. One of which was garlic powder! What a bad surprise!

Not all of our snacks have been bad surprises.

I’ve brought with me this morning some good surprises that we have had with snacks.

The first is gluten-free pretzels. [Explain our low expectations for gluten-free and our surprise that they were so good. Give a pretzel to each kid. Good surprise!]

The second good surprise we had was with thin and crispy corn chips. Bella actually brought these home for us from school where she got them for free. [Read ingredients. Didn’t expect much from a free bag of corn chips. Give a chip to each kid. Good surprise!]

Now this is my favorite snack: mixed nuts with no peanuts! Cashews, almonds, hazel nuts, brazil nuts, and pecans.

We’re going to pour some into this dish and each one can choose the nut they’d like to try and see if you’re surprised by how good it tastes. [Springs pop out of nut can]

How many were surprised? Were you surprised?

We thought we were going to have some good mixed nuts and all we got were these orange springs and an empty can. An empty can was kind of a bad surprise for us.

It was about this time of year almost 2,000 years ago that the disciples of Jesus were surprised.

Jesus was crucified on the cross on Friday for our sins.

He rested in the tomb on Sabbath, and on Sunday morning He rose from the dead.

He actually came back to life in what we call the “resurrection.”

Some women who were disciples of Jesus went to the tomb where Jesus was buried very early on Sunday morning. They were going to put spices on Jesus’ body to make it smell good.

When they got there, they were really surprised that the stone was rolled away from the front of the tomb and Jesus’ body was gone.

At first, they thought it was a bad surprise because they thought someone moved Jesus’ body.

But then the angels appeared to them and told them that Jesus was risen from the dead.

The reason the tomb was empty is that Jesus is alive!

Then the empty tomb became the greatest, most wonderful surprise in history.

Jesus later appeared to all his disciples and many more people, He talked with them, ate with them, and proved that He really was alive again.

That’s why we celebrate Easter tomorrow, but I like to call it Resurrection Day.

Are you glad Jesus surprised His disciples by coming back from the dead?

Let’s thank God for the wonderful surprise of the empty tomb!