Date: 12/30/2017

Title: New Year’s Maze

Theme: Life can be like a maze, but Jesus can help you find your way to a successful finish.

Object: Mazes of different difficulty. Enough to hand out to each child.

Text: Isaiah 30:21 (NIV) 21Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Did you all have a nice Christmas?

How many of you kids got a present?

I hope your presents reminded you that God gave us the greatest present ever when He gave us Jesus to be our Savior and to die for our sins.

Who can tell me what holiday we are going to celebrate next? (New Year’s)

Today is the 30th of December. We have just one more day in December, that’s tomorrow.

Tomorrow night is New Year’s eve, and at midnight, the year 2017 will end and a brand new year, 2018, will start.

I hope you’ll be able to celebrate the New Year with a New Year’s Eve party.

How many of you like to do puzzles?

Well I brought some puzzles with me this morning. A puzzle like this is called a maze.

Here’s a simple maze we can do together to show how to solve the puzzle.

You have to find your way from start to finish without crossing any lines. [Illustrate.]

At the end of the children’s sermon, I’m going to give each of you a maze that you can try to solve.

Some mazes are really easy, but others can be really hard, like this one. [show difficult maze]

Going through *this* maze, you will often have to change the direction you are going.

If you can’t find your way to the finish, you may have to ask someone for help.

As we begin the new year of 2018, I believe God has a plan for your life.

I believe that God wants you to become a better Christian and love Jesus more than you did last year.

As we face each new day of this year and try to follow the path that God wants us to follow, we may find that it is a lot like trying to solve one of these puzzles.

We may often face difficult choices in deciding what God wants us to do.

We may have to change the direction we are going, and sometimes we may have to start over.

Following the will of God for our lives is not always easy, but God promises to help us.

For all those who love and trust Jesus, He promises to always be there to guide us.

He is like a small voice that whispers in your ear: “Don’t go that way; go God’s way.”

Remember the Bible verse we read this morning? 21Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Jesus and the Holy Spirit will always lead you to do what is right and obey God’s commandments.

Would you like to follow God’s plan for your life this year?

Let’s ask Him to guide us and help us to make every decision correctly.