Date: 1/16/16

Title: God’s Plumb Line

Theme: Only when Jesus is our Savior can we measure up to God’s plumb line.

Object: Plumb bob, picture of Crooked Man poem, Junga blocks

Text: Amos 7:7-8 (NIV) 7 Behold, the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. 8 And the Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said: “Behold, I am setting a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.

Does anyone know what a plumb line is?

The Bible here refers to a plumb line four times in these two verses. (re-read verse 7)

What is a plumb line and how is it used to make a wall?

Well guess what I have in my bag this morning…do you think it could be a plumb line?

But before I show you the plumb line I want to show you the wall.

[Build straight wall. Show how sturdy it is. Then build a crooked wall that falls down. Emphasize straight and crooked.]

So which kind of a wall is better, straight or crooked?

When I think of crooked, I remember a poem I heard when I was a kid.

This picture goes along with the poem. It’s about a crooked man. Just about everything you see in this picture is crooked. Look at the man: [point out all about him that’s crooked.]

So here’s how the poem goes: There was a crooked man and he walked a crooked mile, he found a crooked sixpence against a crooked style. He bought a crooked cat which caught a crooked mouse, and they all lived together in a little crooked house.

The poem is kind of funny because everything in it is crooked, but would you really want to live in a little crooked house? What if it fell over in the middle of the night?

 So whether we are building a wall or a house, we want to build it nice and straight.

And that’s where the plumb line comes in.

[Explain plumb line. Two parts (bob and line). Bob always points to the center of the earth so line is straight up and down. If you’re building a chimney, make sure it goes right up along line.]

The Bible says that God has a plumb line in His hand, and He’s using it to measure His people.

The plumb line tells Him whether the people are straight or crooked, whether they’re good or bad.

And He doesn’t look at our shape on the outside to see if it’s like the crooked man.

He looks at our hearts to see if we love Jesus and if we are keeping His commandments.

What do you think God sees when He measures us with His plumb line? Do we measure up?

Well that’s the bad news. None of us measures up. We’re all at least a little crooked.

He might see that we’re straighter than someone else, but that’s not good enough.

God’s plumb line is perfectly straight.

There’s only one person who has measured up, and that’s Jesus. Jesus was perfectly straight.

But here’s the good news: Jesus died for our sins so that God can forgive us.

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, and ask God to forgive us for our sins, He does.

And then God treats us as if we were just as straight as Jesus. Isn’t that amazing?

Do you want to be perfectly straight? Let’s ask Jesus to be our Savior!