Date: 7/8/17

Title: Broken to Shine

Theme: When we are broken, we can shine brighter.

Object: Glow Stick

Text: Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

How many enjoyed the 4th of July that we celebrated last Tuesday?

Did you hear any fireworks? Did you see any up in the sky?

Did you light off any sparklers?

We had a great time at my sister’s home in CT. It was a family reunion.

Usually we wait until night time to set off fireworks and light sparklers.

They show up better at night.

There’s another kind of light that shows up better at night too. [I brought one in my bag.]

Who knows what this is? (Glow stick)

It’s a glow stick but it’s not glowing. How does it work?

You have to break it before it can glow.

There are two chemicals in here. One is diphenyl oxalate and the other is hydrogen peroxide.

The chemicals are kept separate because one is in a glass tube inside this plastic tube.

When you break this light stick, the two chemicals mix causing a chemical reaction that gives off light.

And the light from this chemical reaction causes the glow stick to glow.

Should we break this glow stick and see it light up?

This glow stick reminds me of what its like to be a Christian.

We start out like this glow stick. But our light doesn’t really shine very brightly.

Sometimes we need to be broken so that our light can shine for Jesus.

When we’re broken, we’re humble.

When we’re humble, we realize how weak we really are, and how strong God really is.

When we realize how weak we are, then we can point to God as the source of all the power in our lives.

Our lights will shine brighter when people look beyond us and see the power of God in our lives.

This is what happened to the apostle Paul.

He had something wrong with him that he called a “thorn in the flesh.”

Many people think he had something wrong with his eyes.

He prayed for God to heal him, but the message he got back from God was “My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” made him humble, and because he was humble people could see God at work in his life, giving him strength and wisdom.

Paul didn’t complain any more about his “thorn in the flesh.” In fact, he was glad for it.

His light could shine brighter for Jesus because he was broken.

Let’s see if this light stick will glow… [break and shake.]

If you let Jesus break you and make you humble, you can shine like this for Him.

Would you like to shine like this for Jesus?