Date: 9/29/18

Title: Stay in the Lines

Theme: God wants us to stay within the borders He has set for us with His commandments.

Object: Two coloring pages: one scribbled with 1 or 2 colors, the other colored within the lines with beautiful colors. Plaque showing the 10 commandments.

Text: Exodus 20:1-3 (NIV) And God spoke all these words: 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 “You shall have no other gods before me.

This is the first of God’s ten commandments.

How many have ever heard of the 10 commandments? [Show plaque with 10 commandments.]

God gave us 10 commandments (or 10 rules) to show us how He wants us to live.

He wants you and me to obey the 10 commandments.

How many go to school? How many would like to go to school?

One of the first things you learn when you go to kindergarten is how to color.

How many are learning how to color?

The longer you go to school and the more you practice, the better you become at coloring.

Now I brought with me a couple of pictures that I colored, and I’d like you to critique them.

Do you know what it means to critique a picture?

You look at a picture and tell if you like it or not and say what’s good about it or what’s bad about it.

Here’s the first picture. [Hold up scribbled picture.]

Do you like this picture? What’s wrong with it?

Whoever colored this picture scribbled. They got way outside the lines.

What about the colors? There’re only two colors, purple and black.

Maybe you colored like this when you were real little, but if you colored like this in school, do you think the teacher would give you a good grade? No! This picture is a mess!

Here’s the second picture. [Hold up beautiful colored picture.]

Do you like this picture? What do you like about it?

There’s no scribbling! Whoever colored it stayed within the lines.

Do you like the colors? Isn’t it beautiful?

When you stay in the lines and choose the right colors, you can make a beautiful picture.

These pictures remind me of the way people live their lives.

God has given us the 10 commandments to tell us what to do and what not to do.

But some people don’t care: they just do whatever they want to.

They’re like the little child that doesn’t stay inside the lines on the coloring page.

They might think their life is beautiful, but when God looks at it, He sees that it is just a big mess.

There are other people who read the Bible and try to follow God’s rules.

They try to stay within the guidelines that God has set with His commandments.

But even Christians sometimes make bad choices and disobey God’s commandments.

And when we do that, it’s like a scribble outside the lines.

But you know what? Listen! This is the good news.

Jesus can forgive our sins and erase the scribbles that are outside the lines.

When we trust Jesus as our Savior and tell Him we’re sorry for our sins, He forgives them and takes them away.

Then we can look like this beautiful picture and God is happy with our lives.

Which picture would you like to be?

Let’s ask Jesus to make us a beautiful picture for God.