Date: 1/17/2018

Title: What’s Your Reaction Time?

Theme: God wants us to react quickly to doing what is right.

Object: Two-foot long ruler

Text: 1 Kings 18:21 (NIV) 21 Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.

This verse comes from an amazing story about the prophet Elijah on Mt. Carmel.

The people couldn’t make up their mind who they wanted to follow and worship as God.

So Elijah calls them out and says, “How long is it going to take you to make up your mind?”

If you think that Yahweh is God, follow Him, but if you think Baal is God, follow him.

Yahweh is the true God that created heaven and earth and all living things: He’s the true God.

But Baal was just an idol. He couldn’t create anything. He was nothing.

Yet the people couldn’t make up their minds who to worship! How Sad!

So Elijah says, “Hurry up! Make a decision! Make up your mind!

Have you ever measured your reaction time?

That’s the amount of time it takes you to make a decision and react to something.

Let’s say that I’m driving my car down the street and a dog runs out in front of my car.

As soon as I see the dog, I have to decide what to do and I have to do it.

I have to decide to stop the car and I have to take my foot off the gas and put it on the brake.

The time from when I see the dog to when I take my foot off the gas is my reaction time.

Well I brought something with me this morning that I think we can use to measure reaction time.

Would you like to have your reaction time measured?

Here’s how it works. (Hold ruler vertically. Have child hold fingers 1” apart at zero inches. Drop ruler. Child pinches ruler as soon as it begins to drop. The smaller the inches, the faster the reaction time.)

Well, what have we proved by these reaction time measurements?

We have proven that your reaction times can be very fast: Less than a second.

I’ve actually seen it: When you want to be first in line for pot luck or dessert or ice cream, you can react really fast.

But there are other times when your reaction time is a lot longer.

Maybe your mom asks you to make your bed or clean up your room or pick up your toys and you’re having fun playing.

Then your reaction time s-l-o-w-s w-a-y d-o-w-n.

Or maybe you’re watching TV and your dad says it’s time for bed, and you pretend you don’t hear.

Then your reaction time s-l-o-w-s w-a-y d-o-w-n.

The Bible says that as Christians we should be “swift to hear.”

And the Bible says, “Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.” (Eph 6:1)

So God wants us to have a fast reaction time.

He wants you to hear what your parents or teachers say, decide to obey, and do it quickly.

You all have a very fast reaction time.

How many would like to use it to obey God?

Let’s ask Jesus to help us react quickly and always do what’s right.