Date: 9/4/2021

Title: Carpenter Bees

Theme: Never hide your sins from God; instead confess them and ask Him to forgive you.

Object: Board from house containing channels bored out be carpenter bees.

Text: Psalm 32:3, 5 NLT - 3 When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ... 5 Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

This is one of the many psalms written by David, the boy who killed the giant Goliath and later became king of Israel.

In this psalm he is talking about what happens when we disobey God and try to hide it.

The Holy Spirit makes us feel guilty.

Did you ever do something wrong and then hoped nobody would find out about it?

And your parents ask, “Who did it?” and you tell a lie and say, “It wasn’t me!”

Now you know you’ve told a lie and you feel guilty for that too.

Feeling guilty is a feeling that you know you have done something wrong and you can’t stop thinking about it.

Feeling guilty is a bad feeling.

David said when he tried to hide his sin, he felt like he was wasting away and he felt like groaning all day.

Now I brought with me this morning a board from my house.

And there was something that was hiding really well in this board.

On the outside of the board, there was just a couple of little holes.

And on the back of the board there were no holes at all.

And every now and then I would see a carpenter bee go into one of those holes.

I tried to spray some poison dust into the holes and it killed a couple of bees, but it didn’t kill them all.

So I ripped all the boards off the house that had the carpenter bee holes and I tore the back of the boards open to see what was inside, and here’s what I found.

[Show all the channels bored out by the bees with the dead bees in them.]

No wonder there was so much sawdust on the ground under these boards.

All of these bees were hiding inside the board with only a few little holes to go in and out.

Now when the woodpeckers discover that there are bees inside these boards, what do you think they will do to my house?

The woodpeckers will start pecking holes in the boards to get to the bees inside and eat them.

This is what happened to teacher Ruth’s house when she lived in Atkinson.

So when bees hide in the boards of your house they can cause big problems.

What do we need to do to get rid of the bees?

Well I tore off all the boards that had bee holes in them, I killed all the bees, and I put new boards on the house.

That brings us back to what David said in the Bible verse we read today.

When the bees of sin make holes in our hearts and we feel the stress of guilt, we need to ask Jesus to take the damage away.

Instead of trying to hide our sins, we need to take them to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us.

Let’s read the bible verse again: Psalm 32:3, 5 NLT - 3 When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ... 5 Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Because Jesus died for your sins, He can forgive you and make you like a brand new board with no bees and no holes.

How many want Jesus to forgive their sins and be their Savior?