Date: 7/23/2016

Title: Hide and Seek

Theme: We cannot hide our sins from God, but when we admit our sins and confess them He will forgive.

Object: Hiding places in the sanctuary.

Text: Hebrews 4:13 (NIV) Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

How many have ever played hide-and-seek?

If we were to play a game of hide-and-seek right now, I wonder where a good place to hide would be.

Let’s say that this table is base and I was “it.” I’d have to close my eyes and count to 20 while you found a good place to hide.

Where do you think you would hide? Maybe behind the pulpit or under the organ or under one of the pews?

When I reached the count of 20, I would yell out: “Bushel of wheat, bushel of rye, who isn’t ready, holler I.” And if someone hollered “I”, I would have to count again. But if no one hollered “I”, I would say, “Here I come ready or not.”

Then I would open my eyes and start looking for kids.

Now the best hiding place is one where the person that is “it” can’t see you, but you can see him.

When he moves away from the base far enough, you run from your hiding place, touch the base, and holler “free.”

But if the guy that’s “it” sees you, he can touch the base first and say, “1, 2, 3, on Bella” or whatever your name is.

Then you have to be “it.” And you have to count for the next round.

Hide-and-seek can be lots of fun, especially if there are lots of good hiding places.

I remember when I was a kid, we used to play hide-and-seek in the barn at my Uncle Clyde’s farm.

There were so many great places to hide.

It was great fun until my cousin jumped for the hay wagon and missed and broke his arm. That was a sad end to our game.

Do you know who the first people were who tried to hide?

Their names were Adam and Eve, and they weren’t playing a game.

They were really trying to hide from God because they had disobeyed God, and they were ashamed and afraid.

Do you think God had to go looking to try to find Adam and Eve? (No)

God knew exactly where they were hiding because God sees everything.

God is a Spirit that can be everywhere at once and see everything at once.

So their “little game” of hide-and-seek with God turned out worse than my cousin’s broken arm.

Because they sinned, God had to curse His good creation, and Adam and Eve began to die.

Sometimes when we do wrong things, we try to hide them from our parents or our teachers.

But we can never hide the wrong things we do from God.

God sees everything, and He knows what we have done.

But here’s the good news: God has made a way for us to get in “free” even though we don’t deserve it.

If we love Jesus and tell Him that we’re sorry of our sins and ask Him to forgive us, He will.

Because Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He is able to forgive us and make us “free” from sin.

When we played hide-and-seek, if there were some kids we just couldn’t find and we were tired looking, we would holler out, “All-y, all-y in free.”

Then those still hiding could leave their hiding place and come into base and they wouldn’t be “it.”

That’s what Jesus is calling to all of us: “All-y, all-y in free.” Don’t try to hide your sins. Come into base, and tell Jesus you’re sorry. He’ll forgive you, and you won’t get a broken arm.

Does that sound good to you? Would you like to be “all-y, all-y in free?” I would too! Let’s talk to Jesus.