Date: 4/1/17 (Snowed out this day. Actually given on 4/8/17)

Title: Barcode

Theme: When we trust in Jesus, God adopts us as His children giving us eternal value.

Object: Items with a barcode. Toy barcode reader.

Text: Eph 1:5 (MSG) Long, long ago [God] decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)

Yesterday, our garage door broke.

It wasn’t actually the door itself; it was a pulley that is used to help open the door.

The pulley guides a cable that attaches a giant spring to the door.

Without the spring and the cable and the pulley, it is really hard to open the door.

Let me show you the pulley and what happened to it. [Show pulley and tell what happened.]

So I had to go to Home Depot and buy a new pulley and put it on, and run the cable over the pulley and attach it to the door.

And now the door works again when Grama presses the button on the garage door opener.

So here’s what I got at Home Depot. I got this pulley which I used, and I got this pulley for a spare.

Now I want you to notice on the back of this package, there is this little square that we call a barcode.

This is what gets scanned when you check out.

[Describe Home Depot’s self checkout.]

Now this barcode has information in it.

In the old days, everything used to have a price tag on it. You would take it to the checkout counter and the cashier would charge you the price on the item.

But what if the store wanted to change the price? They’d have to go back and put different price tags on everything.

The barcode is kind of like a price tag, but it is much better.

Now if they want to change the price, they just put the new price into the computer database and the new price is automatically used.

With a barcode, the store can keep track of how many pulleys they have on the shelf and how many they have sold so they can know when to order more pulleys.

I wonder what our barcode would say if God put a barcode on us.

Would it say we’re only worth $4.98 like this pulley, or would it say we’re worth a lot more?

I like the verse we read this morning from the Bible: “Long ago, God decided to adopt into His family all those who would trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.”

Do you know what that means?

When you love and trust in Jesus, God forgives your sins and adopts you into His family.

That makes you a child of the great God that created the universe. You’re worth a king’s ransom!

Your barcode would say that you’re worth more than all the money in the world.

If you ever wonder how much you’re worth, remember the price that God paid for you.

He sent His own Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for you.

That’s how much God thinks you’re worth!

Would you like to be adopted into God’s family?

Would you like your barcode to say you’re worth more than all the money in the world?

Let’s tell Jesus we love Him and that we’re trusting in Him today.