Date: 10/16/2021

Title: Buckeye Fight

Theme: In a buckeye fight you have to hold your buckeye still and let it be hit; in the GC we can do all we can to avoid the devils blows.

Object: Buckeyes gathered from a buckeye tree with some mounted on a shoelace.

Text: 1 Timothy 6:11 NLT - But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.

This is part of the letter that Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy.

In the verse just before this Paul said that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

And in this verse Paul tells Timothy to run from all these evil things.

He is telling him to run away from the evil things and run after the things that are pleasing to God.

How many have noticed a change in the color of the leaves on the trees?

They’re not green anymore; what color are they?

Have you seen any leaves on the ground? What do you like to do with them? [Discuss leaf houses and leaf piles to jump in.]

One of the fun things I remember when I was a kid is looking for buckeyes in the fall.

If you can find a buckeye tree, when the leaves start to turn brown and curl up, its time for the buckeyes to fall off, and you can find them just laying on the ground under the tree.

There are not many buckeye trees in this part of the country. I’ve found only two. The best one is right along the edge of the woods at Winnekinne Castle. And here are some of the buckeyes we picked up last Sabbath afternoon. [Show buckeyes.]

Now where I grew up in Pennsylvania, there were lots of buckeye trees. We had a buckeye tree in our front yard. The state next to PA is Ohio. It is called the Buckeye State. Its state tree is the buckeye tree, and the Ohio State University football team is called the Ohio State Buckeyes.

One of the things we liked doing as kids was having a buckeye fight.

No we didn’t throw buckeyes at each other. We would mount our favorite buckeye on a shoestring and take it to school, and at recess, we would challenge another kid to a buckeye fight.

The object of the buckeye fight was to break the other guy’s buckeye and make it fall off the string.

[Get volunteer to demonstrate a buckeye fight with the two buckeyes mounted on a string. Go over rules.]

Now in a buckeye fight, you feel really helpless when you’re just holding the buckeye there and letting the other guy whack it.

But that’s the rules. You have to hold your buckeye still and let it get whacked.

Well I’m glad that God doesn’t make us play by the buckeye-fight rules when the devil comes along and tries to break our buckeye.

We don’t have to just stand there and let Satan whack us.

God says it’s ok to move out of the way.

In fact, what did Paul tell Timothy in the Bible verse we read?

“But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things…”

When the devil tempts you to disobey the commandments of God, don’t just stand there and listen to him.

You can bob and weave and duck and juke, and dodge and turn and run from evil.

How many want to run away from evil and run toward the things of God?