Date: 4/23/16

Title: Resist the Devil

Theme: When we stay close to Jesus, the devil will flee from us.

Object: Pepper on water trick

Text: James 4:7-8 (NIV) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

This is a very important verse from the Bible that tells us how we can live the way God wants us to.

The Bible tells us that God wants us to keep His commandments.

That’s the way Jesus lived: He always kept God’s commandments. He never disobeyed…

The Bible says that the devil tempted Jesus to try to get Him to disobey, but Jesus didn’t listen to the devil. He always listened to His Father in heaven and obeyed Him.

The devil tries to get us to disobey God’s commandments too.

He always tries to make it look like we’ll have more fun if we disobey God’s commandments.

So the devil tempts us to disobey our parents or our teachers.

He tempts us to lie and steal and cheat in school.

He tempts us to use bad words and take God’s name in vain.

He tempts us to stay home and watch TV on the Sabbath instead of coming to SS and church.

Every time we turn around, the devil is there with another temptation to disobey God and live like him rather than living like Jesus.

This Bible verse we read this morning tells us how to make Satan flee from us, to run away from us and let us alone. [read again]

The first thing we have to do is to “submit ourselves to God”: we need to choose to follow God rather than the devil.

The second thing we need to do is resist the devil: we need to say no to the devil and his temptations.

And how do we do that? Here’s the important part: we come near to God and He will come near to us.

We stay near to God by praying for Jesus to be close to us and help us to do what is right.

We resist the devil by asking Jesus to keep him away from us.

[Do the pepper on water trick]

So this dish is going to represent the world you live in.

And the water represents all the things that surround you every day.

Now the devil is like this pepper mill. He’s always putting temptations in your way.

He’s trying to get you to disobey your parents, and use bad language, and take drugs, and drink beer, and listen to bad music, and hand out with bad kids, and lie and steal and cheat.

And my finger represents you. [Put in water]. You are trying to obey God but all these temptations to do wrong are all around you.

And without Jesus close to you, you’re going to give in to temptation.

But now this dish detergent represents Jesus. When you pray and ask Jesus to be close to you

When you ask Jesus to be close to you and keep you from the devil and his temptations, watch what happens to the devil and all his temptations. [Put finger in water]

He flees! He runs away!

And you can obey God’s commandments when you come close to Jesus and He comes close to you.

Do you want to live close to Jesus so the devil runs away from you?