Date: 8/10/19

Title: Dead or Alive

Theme: When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives us a new life and empowers us to live for God.

Object: Electric fan and inflated balloon

Text: Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV) 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Some people don’t believe in God because they can’t see Him.

They call out to Him and He doesn’t answer; they look for Him and can’t find Him.

But the Bible tells us that God is eternal, immortal, and invisible.

The Bible tells us that God is Spirit, which means that He is like the wind.

We can’t really see the wind itself, but we can see the things that the wind does.

It’s like this fan. How many think the fan is on? How do you know the fan is on?

How many can see the molecules of air coming out of the fan?

No body, can see the air coming out of the fan.

We can feel the air on our face or hand as it makes us cool.

We can hear the wind from the fan, but we can’t see it.

We can’t see the wind, but we can see what the wind does.

And that’s what the Bible says: we can’t see God but we can see what He has done.

He has created our world, the sun, the moon, the stars, all the living plants, all the food we eat, all the animals, and finally us too.

There is only one good answer to the question of where we came from: God created us.

But not only did God create us, He recreates us.

Our Bible verse this morning says that before we trusted in Jesus we were dead in trespasses and sins.

We were sinners condemned to death.

We were like this balloon, dead, unable to do anything to save ourselves or please God.

But watch what happens to the balloon when I put it over the fan.

[The balloon will come “alive” and stay suspended over the fan, which moves it and gives it life.]

The air coming out of the fan is like the invisible Spirit of God that gives us spiritual life and lifts us up to heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

When we come to Jesus and trust in Him, He forgives our sins, and sends the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

The Holy Spirit gives us new life just like the fan gives life to this balloon.

And if we keep loving and following Jesus, the Holy Spirit will keep us centered in the love of God so that we can live for God every day.

Now Satan will come along and try to knock you away from the love and grace of God.

[Tap balloon lightly at first and then hard enough to get it out of the air stream.]

But if we fall from grace, we can ask Jesus to forgive us, and He will put us back where the power of the Holy Spirit will help us to live for Jesus again. {Put balloon back in air stream.]

How many would like to trust in Jesus today so that the Holy Spirit can lift you up to heavenly place and help you live for God?