Date: 8/15/20

Title: The Shield of Faith

Theme: Jesus can protect us from all the temptations Satan uses to try to destroy us.

Object: Container of Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) concentrate used to kill caterpillar worms, sprayer, picture of Bt bacteria. Cauliflower leaf eaten by cabbage worms.

Text: Ephesians 6:16 NIV - In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Who is the evil one? (The devil. We also call him Satan.)

The devil is out to destroy us.

He wants us to turn out back on Jesus and follow him instead.

Sao he is always tempting us to sin and love other things more than we love Jesus.

It’s like we’re in a battle or a war with the devil.

The devil is like shooting flaming arrows at us to set us on fire and destroy us.

And Paul is telling Christians that they need to put on the whole armor of God to be protected from the devil.

Especially in the verse we read today, we are to take the shield of faith in order to stop all the flaming arrows he shoots at us.

Now how many remember a couple of weeks ago we talked about the cabbage butterfly and what it has been doing to my garden. Does anyone remember?

The butterfly laid eggs on all my broccoli plants, and these little caterpillar worms came out of the eggs and started to eat holes in all the broccoli leaves.

Then they got into the heads of broccoli, the part that you eat, and all my broccoli was full of worms!

I only got one head of broccoli out of 12 broccoli plants. Now I’ve had to throw them all on the mulch pile.

The same thing happened to my Cauliflower! Look at this leaf! [Show cauliflower leaf full of holes.]

Then I looked closely at the kale. Guess what: holes in the leaves.

The caterpillars were eating my kale. That’s enough, I said.

So I bought something that would protect my garden from cabbage caterpillars.

Here it is! [Show container of Monterey Bt.]

This is a special kind of pesticide that kills caterpillars.

It’s not a chemical, it is a particular kind of bacteria found in the soil. It’s called Bacillus thuringiensis.

This s like biological warfare!

These bacteria are so small you can’t see them without a microscope, but here’s a picture of Bacillus thuringiensis magnified many times. [Show picture.]

This bacterium is harmless to human beings and other animals, but when the caterpillars eat one of these, it releases proteins that make the caterpillars sick.

And when they get sick, they stop eating and die.

So I mix this Bt with water, put it in a sprayer, and spray all the leaves of the kale and the cauliflower.

And it acts like a shield to kill all the caterpillar worms that try to eat the leaves.

This reminds me of what the Bible says about taking the shield of faith.

Satan is shooting flaming arrows at us to try to destroy us.

But faith in Jesus is our shield to protect us from his temptations.

When Satan tempts us to follow him, we can hide behind Jesus our shield.

If Bt can defeat the caterpillars how much more can Jesus defeat the devil.

How many want to make Jesus their shield from the devils flaming arrows?

