Date: 2/13/21

Title: Whitening Strips

Theme: Whitening strips can whiten our teeth; only Jesus can whiten our souls.

Object: Whitening strips for whitening teeth. Picture of bad teeth.

Text: Revelation 7:13-14 NLT - Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, "Who are these who are clothed in white? … Then he said to me, "These are the ones who … have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.

That’s kind of strange, isn’t it? How do you wash your robe in blood and make it white?

White in the Bible is the color of righteousness and purity.

If we want to make something look clean, we make it white.

How many have white teeth? Do you think that’s the right color for teeth?

Let me see your smile this morning. Show me your biggest smile and let me see your teeth. I see a lot of bright white teeth!

What if God had made teeth green, to blue, or black? That wouldn’t look good at all would it?

How many of you kids brushed your teeth this morning? Are you keeping your teeth looking white and bright?

It is very important to take good care of your teeth. That’s why you need to brush twice a day and use a good fluoride toothpaste, so your teeth don’t get cavities and fall out.

You don’t want your teeth to look like this! [Show picture of bad teeth.]

God wants us to take good care of our bodies which includes taking good care of our teeth.

So we need to brush twice a day. We need to see the dentist at least once a year so he can check for cavities. And if we have any cavities, we need to get them filled before they destroy our teeth and make them fall out. And if we have crooked teeth we can get braces to make them straight.

Now there is something else that helps us have a nice bright smile: whitening strips.

As you get older your teeth start to turn yellow, especially for people who smoke or chew tobacco. Promise me that you will never smoke or chew tobacco!

But even for people who don’t, our teeth get more yellow as we get older.

So I bought these whitening strips to make my teeth white again. Do you want to see what they look like? [Show whitening strips and explain how they work.]

These whitening strips are wonderful for making our yellow teeth white again.

But they don’t do anything at all for the stains of sin that make our hearts dark and ugly.

What can remove the stains of sin from our hearts? Only the blood of Jesus.

That is why in the Bible says that those who are saved and on God’s side “have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.”

Now that’s what we call figurative language. We don’t really do that, but we do something else kind of like that.

The blood of the Lamb represents the blood of Jesus.

The robe represents the record of our life, a list of the things that we have done.

And because we have sinned and disobeyed God our robe has lots of stains on it.

And the only way we can get the stains off our robe is to come to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us.

Because Jesus shed His blood on the cross and died for our sins, He can forgive us when we tell Him we’re sorry for the bad things we have done.

And when Jesus forgives us, it is like he is washing the stains of sin off of our robe with the blood He shed on the cross.

Does that make sense?

How many want to get rid of the stains of sin on your robes?

Let’s ask Jesus to wash them away!

