Date: 6/27/2015 (Repeated 6/9/2018)

Title: A Sample for Jesus

Theme: Jesus wants you to be a sample to help people know what Jesus is like.

Object: Various sample items: tooth paste, shampoo, face wash, hand lotion.

Text: Romans 8:29 (NKJV) 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Have you ever gone shopping in the store to buy food or groceries or laundry detergent?

In a store, they have lots of stuff in different size containers.

You can buy breakfast cereal in a small box if you don’t eat much each day.

Or you can buy cereal in a giant jumbo size box if everybody in your family likes it and eats a lot of it each day.

So in a store, you can choose not only what to buy, but also how big the box or bottle you will buy.

It is usually best to buy the biggest box if you’re sure you like something and are going to use all of it.

But if you’re not sure you’re going to like something, then it’s best to buy the small box to see if you like it.

Now sometimes, the companies that make things have samples that they give away for free.

A sample is a very small container of their product that they want you to try.

They hope that when you try it you will like it.

And when your little sample runs out, you’ll come to the store and buy a big container of their product to use.

[Show samples and explain.]

Did you know that God wants you to be a sample too?

The verse we read from the Bible today says that God’s plan for every Christian is to “conform them to the image of Jesus.”

That means that God wants us to make us like Jesus: not so much that we’ll look like Jesus, but that we’ll act like Jesus.

And how did Jesus act? How did He treat people? What was He like? Where can we find out what Jesus was like? (Bible; Church & SS, parents & teachers, worship)

The Bible tells us that Jesus loved people.

He was merciful and kind and compassionate toward everyone.

He taught them about the kingdom of God.

He healed all their sicknesses and diseases.

He gave sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf.

He healed the lepers and the cripples.

But more important than anything else, Jesus loved us so much that He died on the cross for our sins.

And if we love Jesus, we can tell Him we’re sorry for the bad things we’ve done and He will forgive us and give us eternal life instead of eternal death.

Then God’s plan is to make us a little sample of Jesus.

God wants to make us kind and loving toward others just like Jesus was.

And when we treat other people like Jesus did, they will want to know Jesus too.

Would you like to be a sample for Jesus?

I hope you will grow each day to be more like Jesus, so others can see Jesus in you.