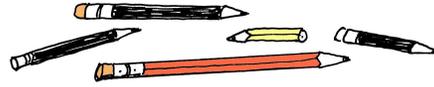


THE PENCIL DETECTIVES

Theme: *Jesus erases our sins*

Scripture: *Hebrews 10:7*

Props: *5 pencils (as described in the text)*



Today we're going to become pencil detectives. Did you know you can tell a lot about someone by looking at his pencil? I brought some pencils today to show you what I mean.

(Show chewed up pencil.) What would you say about the person who owns this pencil? See all those bite marks? This person is either very nervous or very hungry!

(Show a pencil sharpened with a knife.) What can you tell about this person? He obviously doesn't have a pencil sharpener. (Either that or he's a beaver!)

How about this one? *(Show short pencil with an unused eraser.)* This person must do a lot of writing. (See how short it is?) But he doesn't make many mistakes. See how the eraser hasn't been used?

And this one? *(Show short pencil with very little eraser left.)* This person does a lot of writing, but he makes lots of mistakes. See how the eraser is all worn down?

Then there's this one. *(Show an unsharpened pencil.)* Either this person doesn't have a pencil sharpener or he's afraid of making mistakes, so he doesn't even sharpen it!

Well, pencils have erasers because people make mistakes when they write. And people make mistakes in life, too. They're called "sins". We can't erase those sins by ourselves, but fortunately we have someone who erases them for us. His name is Jesus. If we put our faith in him and ask forgiveness, he completely erases our sin.

Let me read you what God says about his people. In Hebrews 10:7 he says, "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." It's like they've all been erased.

Boy, is that good news! And that's something we should pray about: Father God, we try really hard not to sin, but sometimes we just can't help it. That's why we're so thankful that we're forgiven because your Son, Jesus, erases our sin. We thank you in his holy name. Amen.

Song: *"Nothing but the Blood"*