

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017

Series: Legos: Building a Unique Life with God

Message: "Building a Unique You!"

Scripture: Ephesians 2:20-22 "Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." (NIV)

Text: 1 Peter 2:5 "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Memory verse: 2 Peter 2:5 "You are like living stones, being built into a spiritual house."

Blurb: This Sunday we begin our fall message series, "Legos: Building a Unique Life with God!" God has a unique design for each of us, one we build creatively with Him. We begin this week where builders begin: with design. God has a plan for your life, a blueprint for you! Our new form of worship is interactive for all ages. Come prepared to get involved in building!

Gathering Song: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* - Sanctify

Welcome: -David

- Good morning! I'm David, the pastor here, and
- Welcome to Forest Hills, where together we Love. Grow. and Serve. Jesus.
- First time guests invited to the welcome center
- Kids will stay in worship
- Insert: Church at home: Use the bulletin as a plan for prayer.
- Today we lift up those affected by hurricanes...
- Financial Peace University
- Are you wondering what your life's purpose is? Why you are here...still here?
- God has a plan for you, and for your life.
- You have a purpose, a meaning.
- Today we explore what God created you for!
- We begin with today's Takeaway Verse: (First I do it, then kids, then everyone)

PP: Memory verse: 2 Peter 2:5 "You are like living stones, being built into a spiritual house."

Worship Music Set: -Sanctify

Magnify

Your Love Defends Me

Abide with Me

Note: During this song, have younger kids come up and create Lego "blueprints"
Worship prayer - Andrew

Meet Bill the Builder - "Blueprints"

2 Peter 2:5 "You are like living stones, being built into a spiritual house."

Activity: Block Stack Race -Andrew

Prayers: The Lord's Prayer is a blueprint for prayer! -David

Offering: *Living Stones* (1 Peter 2:5) (Andrew composed) -Sanctify

Message Bumper

PP#1: Legos: Building a Unique Life with God

Building a Unique You!

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." - 1 Peter 2:5

Today we start our new, fall message series. We're using Legos to help us understand that as Jesus-followers, we are each Building a Unique Life with God. Our first message is, "Building a Unique You!" Did you know that God has a special plan for you, a unique plan for your life? God just doesn't come in Jesus to save us *from* our sins, *from* death, *from* emptiness, and loneliness, and meaninglessness. Jesus also saves us *for* a future, not just in heaven, but also here in this life, too. When you give your life to God, God is at work *on* you, *in* you, and *through* you! You partner with God to create a you that you cannot create on your own or by yourself.

Our series Takeaway Verse, and our Takeaway Verse for today, is 1 Peter 2:5. "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." God has a plan for you!

PP#2: *Images of iconic Lego pieces, perhaps used half-built into something.*

So, Legos are irresistible! If they are just setting around, we have an urge to put them together to build something! So, we have some Legos scattered here on the two tables up front. Can I ask kids to come up and build us something? Come up, and while I'm speaking, come up and build something. Right now. Come on up. And be creative. Build a unique house with Legos. When you're done, just leave it there. Thanks! Others can come, up, too, if you want!

Legos come from Denmark. In the early 1930s Ole Kirk Christiansen was a struggling carpenter. He finally had to let his employees go and close up his shop. On top of that, then his wife died. Pushed to provide for his four sons, Ole used the leftover wood and created toys.

PP#3: Lego®

Danish *leg godt* means "playing well"

Latin *lego* means "I put together"

To help him market his toys, Ole searched for a catch name. In Danish, *leg godt* means "playing well." He shortened it to *lego*, having no idea that in Latin *lego* means "I put together." The name was coined in 1936, and his third son, Gotfred Kirk Christiansen, showed interest in working with his father in the company.

During the hard times of World War II, a fire destroyed the whole factory, everything. Ole forged on to rebuild. After the war, he bought a new plastic molding machine to help make toys. He made plastic blocks, along with other toys.

PP#4: *A toy town built with Legos, from the 1950s.*

Gottfried was now doing much of the business, and he decided create a toy system, where you could take your blocks and build your own toys. All these toys could interact with the others, and could be built and rebuilt. Thus was born “The Lego system of play.”

His big problem was that whenever the toys were moved, they easily collapsed. So Gottfried designed the circular interlocking nobs into inner tubes to help the blocks stay together. In 1954, the modern Lego block we all know was born!

In 1958 Ole died, and a fire again destroyed the entire factory. Gottfried decided to rebuild, but only build plastic toys from then on, the building blocks. Legos became popular everywhere.

PP#5: *Image of Legoland*

Then, in 1968, he designed a massive theme park, based on the Disneyland model, called Legoland! Today there are dozens of Legolands around the globe, and the Lego system of play continue to be a hit with kids the world over. Gottfried’s son now runs Legos, and continues to want kids to be builders, to be creative, to explore, experience and express their world. Their only limit is their imagination!

Lego, “I build.”

This can be a term that describes us, all of us, as Christians. God created us to build, to create. This is how we share God’s image in us. Lego, I build, can be our faith motto!

PP#6: *Image of The Lego Movie.*

Lego has been creating videos since the 1970s. But it wasn’t until the TV cartoon series *Lego Ninjago: Masters of Spinjitzu* in 2011 that it really took off. Then, Lego partnered with Warner Brothers and created a wildly successful movie released to theaters in 2014.

We’re going to take a look at a couple of clips from that movie. It’s animated, and the entire movie world is made out of Legos. The main premise is that an average and boring Emmet, is told that he is the special “chosen one” that will save the day. By happenstance, he gets attached to a special red piece of resistance that can thwart the evil plans of President Business to glue all pieces together, putting an end to the craziness and creativity of making and remaking things.

In this first scene, Emmet has been arrested by the evil police, even before Emmet is really aware that he is now attached to the special piece, and before he even knows about a special “chosen one.” He’s just an average, normal, un-special, unimportant, nobody. Take a look at his interrogation.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRRNzK58ttw>

(Starting at 1:40) Total 3:25

Emmet realizes that he’s not special. Emmet is a nobody!

Emmet is not special. He is nothing important. Emmet is nothing. What a terribly sad realization! And we connect with that sadness. This is a fear that we all have. Are we a nobody? Are we nothing special? This is our worry before we meet Jesus.

But there are others around Emmet who believe in him, who believe he is special, who believe his life has a purpose. And he is captivated by their belief. Let’s watch again when Emmet is rescued by a particularly beautiful member of the resistance, who believes in him.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsNCRoLRiMY>

(Stop at 0:52) Total 1:03

Emmet says he is the special.

Wow! She says he's special, important, interesting, talented, the most extraordinary person in the entire universe! How can he resist! After fearing that he might be a nobody, this is his dream.

PP#1: *Image such as from <http://becomingbeautiful.org/you-are-special/>.*

It's our dream, too. It's what we yearn for! We want to be significant, important, a somebody. We are Emmet, yearning for this identity in our life.

And that's why the message of Jesus is so amazing! For in Jesus, we learn that we are special. We are a somebody! We are special, not because others say so, or believe in us. We are special because God thinks we're special! God made you ON purpose, and FOR A purpose!

Legos helps us remember that God built us, that He has a unique plan for each of us, and that God made us to uniquely build a part of God's Kingdom on earth.

PP#2: Ephesians 2:20-22 (NIV)

“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

Our Bible passage comes from Ephesians 2. Paul is telling the Christians there that they are to build with God. Now, at first, it seems like they are to build something “out there.” But by the end, he makes it clear that what they are building is God's intention in their lives, and how they are living together. Ephesians 2:20-22. “Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

Build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. We have the Word of God handed down to us, and living within us. Build on the plan God has shared. Build on Jesus as the Cornerstone, what everything in our lives must line up with. So, as we build with God, we build on His Word and plan for the best way to live—that means doing it God's way, not our way!—and building everything to “square” with Jesus. We build what Jesus wants in us. As we build, it all joins together to be a witness for God. What we do, how we live, how we act, all show God to others. God dwells in us, His Holy Spirit lives in us. This is what we are helping God build in and through us.

PP#3: *In image of a blueprint.*

You know, Bill the Builder helped us understand that to build something, it takes plans, resources, and time.

[Hold up blueprints from the church.]

I need two helpers to come up here for a second. [Select helpers.]

Here are the blueprints for the room and building we are in right now. Let's unroll it. Can you see it? Here's the room with all the pews we are sitting on. Now, it's not blue, I know. I think

technically this is actually a floor plan. These are from 1986. That's 30 years ago! Can you see how the whole church looks? Here are the doors we'll go out.

[Give them parsonage blueprints to hold up.]

Now, here's a second blueprint. This is to the house I live in. The church also owns this, too. It was also built 30 years ago. These are more blue, aren't they? Here's the bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, and here's my bedroom.

[Roll up blueprints.]

Thank you, kids, for your help. You can go back now.

PP#4: Building a Unique You!

1. Choose God's plan

God has a blueprint for each of you. He has a unique plan to create a unique you. When we give our lives to Jesus, we build with God! So, our first move is to choose His plan for our lives and give up our own plans. It's not that our plans are wrong. It's that we need to let God be our Designer. Now, some of those yearnings you have in your life are there because they are part of the plan God built in you. Being a Jesus-follower means discerning which parts of our own desires are God-given, and which ones we need to discard. When we try to build on just our own wisdom, we draft some ideas that just don't work.

For example, for years I thought that I wanted to be an investment banker. I even went to college for it. But God helped me build something different, modified my plans, and now I realize that I would have hated being a banker. But I wasn't totally wrong. I still get to make investments, but rather than just money, I'm investing people's resources—physical and spiritual—for Jesus' Church. God had better plans for my life, and I'm so glad I followed His rather than mine!

Choose God's plans for your life. Ask God what He wants. That includes listening to your heart, too.

PP#5: Building a Unique You!

1. Choose God's plan
2. Build with the right resources

When you build on the plan you have, build with the right resources. There are many different Lego blocks. You can't build everything with the same block.

When we follow Jesus, this means using the spiritual disciplines, the building blocks of healthy spiritual lives, like intentional prayer, like consistent Bible reading, like weekly worship—if you are in town on Sunday, you are in worship!, like Wednesday fellowship and relationship-building, M&M, Wednesdays at 5:30, like small groups, spiritual friends who hold you accountable, like doing acts of service on your way to wherever you go, like training your eyes to look at what is helpful and up-building, not selfish and self-gratifying.

The Lego motto is "Only the best is good enough." In your life, only build with the best resources. How can you upgrade the resources you are building your life with?

PP#6: Building a Unique You!

1. Choose God's plan
2. Build with the right resources
3. Allow consistent time

And thirdly, building well takes time. Look at the Lego sculptures. They took time!

Same with your life. You must continue to build, intentionally, consistently, over time. Don't lose heart. There are times you fail. That's OK. Lego Rome wasn't built in a day! But you are making progress. Every once in a while, take a look at where you've come from. You can see beginning to emerge, what God and you are building together.

PP#7: *Image of a huge house made out of Legos, subtitled, "Be confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* Phil. 1:6

Choose God's plan. Build with the best spiritual resources. And keep building over time. God and you are building a unique you! You may not be able to see it all right now. But just like Bill the Builder can see the plan and imagine the completed project in his head, so can God see what you are going to be. And God's excited about that. You can be, too!

"You are like living stones, being built into a spiritual house." - 2 Peter 2:5

Lego, "I build."

Amen.

Closing Song: *There Is Joy in the Lord*

Memory verse: 2 Peter 2:5 "You are like living stones, being built into a spiritual house."

Benediction