Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017

Series: Legos: Building a Unique Life with God

Series Bible Verse: 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."

Message: The Creator Created You to Create

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27 (The Wise and Foolish Builders)

Text: "There is only one true foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11

Memory verse: "There is only one true foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11

Theme: Build on something unchanging

Build your on Jesus! Connect with Jesus. You build a life that will last when you build on the right foundation. The foundation we build on is Jesus.

- Blurb: Much of life can be so fragile! Do you worry things will collapse? How do you keep it all together, keep it going? This Sunday we learn to build our lives on something solid, that will survive what life throws at us. You were created to create! Create on a solid foundation!
- Activity: Earlier in the service: Survive the Quake Game.
- Bill The Builder: Earlier in the service. Video! Darrell Benson dressed up as construction worker. Talks about foundations and building on them.
- Videos: Matthew 7:24-27 set to Legos: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TA1LVIHZIzU</u> Lincoln Log experiment: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cI5szjFpOj0</u>

Gathering Song: Hymn Sing

Welcome: -David

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

PP: Memory verse: "There is only one true foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11

Worship Music Set: -Sanctify

Andrew intro. Wise Man Build His House upon the Rock - Actions with kids Your Love Defends Me The Church's One Foundation Worship prayer - Andrew

Making Connections:

Meet Bill the Builder - "Foundation" Videos Activity: Earthquake game - shaky foundation -Andrew

Prayers: -David

-Hurricane Relief, \$1,300 so far; collecting items

-Prayer of blessing over our new Director of Youth: Cassi Betker!

-Foundations of Prayer

PP1: The Lord's Prayer

"Our Father, who is in heaven, holy be your name! ... "

-Time of prayer

PP2: God's Character and Attributes:

Holy	Righteous	Truth	Provider	Protector
Sovereign	All loving	Savior	Beauty	Jealous
Everywhere	All knowing	Compassion	Discipliner	Eternal
All powerful	Merciful	Perfect	Healer	Refuge

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

Message Bumper

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

The Creator Created You to Create!

"There is only one true foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ." -1 Corinthians 3:11

"Legos: Building a Unique Life with God." God has a special plan for you, for your life. And God calls us to build with Him the unique you that He has planned. "The Creator Created You to Create!" Our question today is, what is the foundation you are building your life on? Let's say our Takeaway verse again together, "There is only one true foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 3:11.

Legos are one of the most popular toys the world over, they are the most amazing building blocks to build almost anything! In the original Danish, *Lego* means "play well."

PP#2: *Iconic picture of Legos from Legos website.*

In Latin, Lego means "I build." This is a great way to think about our life with Jesus. We are Lego Christians! When we choose to follow Jesus, then we build the life with God that God has planned. Christians "lego." When I choose Jesus, God and "I build" together!

Lego's official mission statement is to "Inspire and develop the builders of tomorrow." And it does! With such a basic building block, the possibilities are endless! Six regular Lego bricks–with eight studs–can be interlocked nearly 100 million different ways!

The 80-year-old company provides one of the most widespread toys on earth. Over 600 billion Lego pieces have been produced to date. That's nearly 100 for each person on earth! The company's been named "Toy of the Century" twice. In 1998 Lego bricks were one of the original inductees into the US National Toy Hall of Fame. Since started in 1978, nearly 4 billion Lego minifigures, or Lego people, have been made.

PP#3: *Image from*

http://www.popsci.com/lego-figurines-on-juno-are-latest-in-long-line-bricks-in-space

There are professional artists who sculpt exclusively in Legos. And there are Legos in space! When the NASA spacecraft Juno landed on Jupiter last year, it carried three Lego minifigures: the Greek and Roman God Jupiter, his wife Juno, and the astronomer Galileo.

PP#4: *Image of Lego baseplates.*

Since it's first plastic bricks in 1949, Lego has impassioned people of all ages to build, create, and recreate. Yet, it was even before they perfected the interlocking design in 1958, that Lego introduce something even more important for building. In 1953, Lego introduced the first baseplate! Do you see what Lego discovered? Even before it perfected how the bricks connected, it was more urgent for building to provide a secure *foundation*.

Let me demonstrate with these Duplos, the larger version of Legos.

[Create a tall structure on two legs out of Duplos. Try to set it on a slippery surface, and push down. The legs spread apart and the structure breaks. Take the same structure and build on a baseplate. Show how it is now sturdy.]

The baseplate, or, as we call it, the foundation, is crucial to sturdy building! And, as Bill the Builder said, that's exactly true, too, with the lives that we are building with God.

Jesus loved Legos. Did you know that? Well, maybe not exactly. But as we turn to our Bible passage today, we can almost see Legos as Jesus speaks. Jesus taught a parable we call "The Wise and Foolish Builders." In fact, let's hear the Bible story as a Lego video. Take a look at this.

Video 1: Matt. 7:24-27 Lego Parable: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAILVIHZIzU(1:30min.)

Jesus says to His followers, "Those who hear my words and put them into practice, are like wise builders who build on a rock." Wise builders with God learn Jesus' words, yes, but we *also live them* in their daily lives. You see, it's not just knowing Jesus that is important. It's also following Him, living His way. But it's not just that we live *like* Jesus, and follow His example.

Watch this now, this get's messed up in our worldly culture. Our culture teaches us that Jesus was a good person, and we should follow His example. But Jesus is not just a Teacher, *showing* the way. He *is*, Himself, the Way! That means He's our Savior, He does the saving. Not us.

So, our building with God is not building a life *in order to* be saved. It is a life *because we are* saved. Jesus is Savior, and to take Him as our Savior, we must take Him as our Lord. Lord is different from Teacher! We must submit our will to Him, and replace ourselves, as the center of our lives, with Jesus. That means building our lives with Jesus as our master builder. We contribute, we are creative, we have say, but we also let Jesus be in charge.

But as He tells the story, we see that it's not because Jesus wants minions to do His bidding. His point is that when we let Him be the Master builder, He will help us create better lives. It's like Bill the Builder, who knows that foundations need to be dug down deep, below the frost line, in Minnesota. He knows these things. And when we follow it, future, unseen problems are avoided.

PP#1: The Creator Created You to Create

1. Let Jesus be your Master Builder

So, our most fundamental question is, is Jesus your teacher, example, Savior, or Lord? What would it look like for you to let Him be truly all of these? What words of Jesus has the Holy Spirit been bringing to mind, and calling for you to better put into practice. On your note sheet, write down one thing you've been hearing the Holy Spirit prompt in you. What words do you need to live out?

PP#2: *Image of a structure/house with a crumbling foundation.*

But one of the most important parts of our creative building is the foundation! Bill the Builder taught us this. The foundation is important for lasting over time, remaining strong, and withstanding the storms. Jesus says wise builders build on something that lasts, that is unchanging. In His day, that was rock. In our day, it is often concrete.

Now, Jesus' story is quite insightful, because at first, both houses look pretty good. They start out OK. But it is when things don't go so well, that the foundation is tested.

PP#3: The Creator Created You to Create

1. Let Jesus be your Master Builder

2. Make Jesus your Sure Foundation

Creating well with the Creator means making Jesus your Sure Foundation. The Bible calls Jesus the Rock, the "only one true foundation."

You know, this sounds so church-y: "Make Jesus your foundation." But this is something we really struggle with. Be honest with yourself for a moment. What do you base your life on? Think of it this way. What would you do-what would be your security-if you found out that your identity has been stolen? What would you do if you got a phone call saying that your finances have been irrecoverably whipped out by fraud...all of them, savings, checking, investments? What if you got laid off and a year later you still didn't have a job? What if your doctor told you there were some gravely concerning anomalies in your test results? What if your home, with everything you own, was lost in a flood? What if your child suddenly vanished, and weeks went by without any leads? Whew!

You see, most of us who talk big about Jesus also secretly put our trust in our own abilities, and resources, and good fortune. But to have Jesus be your foundation means that no matter what's going on "out there" in your life, "in here," even though you grieve, and feel worry, and get sick to your stomach, you go to Jesus with it all, and you let Him carry you, step by step. It's a trust when you cannot control. It's a proclamation, at those times, that you will be OK.

I prayed with Kay Bergerson on Thursday, as she was facing scary back surgery on Friday. Major surgery, seven hours long! I asked her how she was feeling about it. She said, "Of course I'm a bit anxious; it's major surgery. But you know what? With all the prayers I've been getting, I have this inner peace, so I'm not really worried. I trust God will see me through it."

That's resting on a foundation of Jesus!

Before you leave here today, invite Jesus to be this kind of foundation for you. Ask Him to replace the trust you have in yourself, with trust in Him. Reclaim Him as your Cornerstone.

Because, as I've said, the storms of life come. Two houses that look so similar really show what's holding them up during those times. I want you to see a video a dad made with his two boys that really shows this in an unforgetable way. It's not Legos, but Lincoln Logs. Same point! Take a look.

Video 2: Lincoln Log experiment: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cI5szjFpOj0</u> (2:04 minutes)

Pretty amazing, huh? Those who hear Jesus' words, but do NOT put them into practice, are like foolish builders who build on sand. When the rains come down, and the floods come up, the house falls with a mighty crash!

PP#1: *Image of house washed down the seashore.*

Last weekend Hurricane Irma came hurling up the Caribbean and into Florida. Here's a house that was built on sand. It looks a lot like the Lincoln Log house, doesn't it?

The test of your life doesn't come when things go right. Your true foundation shows when things go wrong. It's easy being a Christian when people are nice. But it's when they turn mean, and vindictive, and there's terrible pressure, that shows who you really are.

Those who've been around you when you're not nice, how would they describe your foundation? Jesus-followers strive to be the same person to everyone. Not that we don't need to get aggressive and firm at times, or even upset. But can you be identified as the same person when things go right as when things go wrong?

Jesus' way, His words, guide you around many unseen problems, and they help you stay centered when things go wrong. If you follow them, abundant life happens. Relationships are restored when we practice forgiveness. Healing is extended when judgement is stopped. Possibilities open when we are generous. Peace comes when we let Jesus lead.

PP#2: The Creator Created You to Create

- 1. Let Jesus be your Master Builder
- 2. Make Jesus your Sure Foundation
- 3. Hang on to Jesus as your Support in the storms

Jesus cares about what is best for us. That is why He tells us to follow Him, to obey Him, to make Him our Sure Foundation. Only then can we be the people we yearn to be. Only then can we create the life we long for. Cling to your foundation when things go wrong.

PP#3: Pray First! Challenge.

- 1) When you hear personal bad news.
- 2) When someone shares their bad news, pray for them silently.
- 3) When someone shares a struggle: pray with them out loud!

Here's a challenge. I want to challenge you to pray first, three times this week. Write this down on your note sheet. Three times: pray first. This is clinging to your foundation. One: When you experience something worrisome or unsettling in your own life, make the first thing you do, is pray about it. OK? So, you will have to be vigilant about this, and remind yourself to be watching. Bad news, pray first.

Two: When someone shares some bad news in their life with you, pray first, in your head, even before the conversation is over. Do it with your eyes open, so they can't tell.

Three: This is the hard one. Some time this week, when someone tells you about a struggle, or hardship, or problem in their life, before the conversation is over, ask them, "Can I pray with you about it, right now?" And after they look at you with a surprised, blank face, say, "Let me just pray quick for you before we leave." Then, bow your head, and say a very simple, short prayer, asking God to bless them by helping them during this hardship. Don't be long and eloquent. Keep it short

and simple. If they don't let you, then you are still on the hook. You have to try again with someone else, until you get to pray, out loud.

All three, this week! OK, Church?

PP#4: *Image of two houses after Irma, one damaged, the other standing.*

Here are two houses, side-by-side, in Florida, after Irma when through. The one on the right was built to hurricane standards. The one on the left, not so much!

Jesus is telling us to build our lives to hurricane standards. That means letting Jesus be your Master Builder. That means letting Jesus be your Sure Foundation. That means hanging onto Jesus as your Support during the storms of life.

PP#5: Image of "Last House Standing" in Gilchrist, TX, after hurricane Ike in 2008.

Here's a famous picture of a hurricane-built house in Texas after Ike went through in 2008. They lost their home in hurricane Rita in 2005, and rebuilt to hurricane standards. Then, when Ike went through, their house stood. All the others were wiped out.

This is the kind of life God is helping you to build.

"Those who hear my words and put them into practice are like wise builders to build their houses on a rock."

"So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ!" Amen!

Closing Song: Standing on the Promises

Memory verse: "There is only one true foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ." -1 Corinthians 3:11"

Benediction

Church@Home

Here are some ways for you to take worship home with you this week!

Memory Verse (review at least once a day):

"There is only one true foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11

Digging Deeper

Read: Luke 6:46-49

- Reflect: Think of a recent time you didn't put Jesus' words into practice. Why do you remember that? How did it turn out? What should you have done? Think about how you build your life on other foundations than Jesus. Why? How can you change?
- Discuss: Notice how Luke records a few extra of Jesus' words in this teaching compared to Matthew 7:24-27. What are they? What do they teach you?

Pray: Address Jesus as your Foundation, and ask Him to be your Rock.

With Kids:

Read Matthew 7:24-27

- Discuss: What makes the wise man wise? What makes the foolish man foolish? How does Jesus say we can be like the wise man?
- Think: Texas and Florida have both been hit by devastating hurricanes. Strong winds and pouring rain will test any foundation. Thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed. In many ways people need to rebuild their lives.
- Apply: Homes are built on brick and stone, but on what do we build our lives? How does faith in God give us strength in life? How can we be sure to keep this foundation strong?
- Engage: Break out the Jenga game and play a few rounds. Then discuss: Notice how the base of the tower affects everything else. If you could re-design the tower to make it more stable, what changes would you make?