

**Sunday, Sept. 24, 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: Keep Building!

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:3-8

Text & Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Theme: Building takes time and effort, but God will provide the resources we need. God wants you to build big! He is calling you to build something significant, influential, and important. Are you still building?

Blurb: As you build a unique life with God, don't give up! It gets hard, and at times you just can't see much purpose. But remember, God will supply everything you need. God wants you to build something significant, influential, and important. Just keep building! You are Built to Build!

Activity: Have Lego Builder (Erik) at table building a Legos kit throughout the service.

Bill The Builder: Talks to the Lego builder (Erik) & then shares fr personal experience @persistence

Videos: Reese creates slide show of amazing things that people have built with Legos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x0R0PLONuM&sns=em>

**Gathering Song:** *Simple Pursuit* - Sanctify

**Welcome:** -David

**PP:** Memory verse: "He who began a good work in you will complete it." -Philippians 1:6

**Activity:** Erik Kargel assembling a Lego kit.

**Worship Music Set:** -Sanctify

Andrew intro.

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

*Your Love Defends Me*

*God of This City* - Kids assemble Cityscape during the song.

Worship prayer - Andrew

**Making Connections:**

Bill the Builder - Engages Legos builder, then shares fr personal experience @ perseverance

**Prayers:** -Andrew

**Missions Moment:** M&M meals -David & Andrew skit

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

David introduces: Giving to the church helps us pay for the many ways we try to show God's care and make sure people know they are special. We bless others together!

## Message Bumper

**PP#1:** *First image from <https://9gag.com/gag/aeGxQDq/this-is-what-the-us-debt-would-look-like-if-it-were-in-100-bills>*

Have you ever wondered about your place in the world? There are so many people...seven billion right now on earth. Some estimate that since creation, there have been over 100 billion people on earth. That's more than I can get my head around. If you stacked up dollar bills, it would take *five* of these stacks next to the Statue of Liberty to make 100 billion individual bills.

But if that's how many people there have been, and are, then what is our importance? Aren't you just a faceless blur in the heaving sea of people? What makes you unique? What makes you important?

**PP#2:** Legos: Building a Unique Life with God

Keep Building!

"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." -Philippians 1:6

This is where Legos can really help us understand one of the core Biblical teachings. God has a special design, a special plan, a special purpose, just for you!

Erik over there is using piles of Lego bricks. It's taking him a while. How is it going, Erik? But if you have just six regular, eight-knob Lego bricks, they can be connected in over 900 million ways. With a pile of Legos, as the company so famously says, the only limit is your imagination!

Think of how much more complex you are! God has no problem making you unique! God has an amazing imagination! And so do you! The Bible says that you and God are building a unique life that He and you can imagine together!

This past week, my son Nathan "went missing" in my office. I had in there a bag of "sermon props," or Legos, thanks to the Lorenzies. Three hours later, I found him—not playing video games, like I suspected, but finishing this. [Hold up Lego space craft.] He had no design. He reached into the bag of Legos, and with imagination, three hours later, we have this amazing flying craft that looks like it belongs in a sci-fi movie! Wow, it even has red blasting flames coming out of the front!

God wants to build with you a very unique, and very important life that fits into His amazing plan for all of creation. The question to you, is, are you building?

Today we hear from God's Word to not give up on building your unique life with God. Keep Building! Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

**PP#3:** *Images of tired, worn-out people, almost ready to give up trying.*

We've learned from God's Word that God has a blueprint for your life. Your first response is to make Jesus your life's foundation. Build on Jesus! But as exciting as this is, especially at first, when you realize the amazing potential God has created in you, over time, when the realities of this world and everyday life wear you down, our enthusiasm begins to diminish. It's so hard to stay true to the person that God intends you to be, and who you desperately want to be! Time constraints, peer pressure, little compromises here and there. A little bit of anger, an innocent bit of selfishness, a dose of "I deserve more!" and "I'm so tired of trying when it doesn't seem to work." "Doing it right doesn't seem to get me anywhere." And somehow, our life seems to stall and stagnate.

The Bible says, “Don’t give up. Don’t stop. Even when it’s hard. Keep going. You can do it. God is pushing you. You might not see it, yet, but it’s important.”

I want to show you some mind-blowing things that people have created with Legos. These were not quick, one-hour projects. These were complex, designed and built slowly, over long periods of time. Let’s have a look!

**PP#4-14: Slide Show!** *Slide show of 10 different amazing Lego sculptures, pausing on each slide.*

These amazing sculptures took time, tenacity, and never-giving-up! But look what these ordinary people were able to create! And I’m sure it didn’t look anything like what they were going to be, for a *very* long time!

God has placed within you a bold, crazy, seemingly impossible plan for your life! Did you know that over the past two weeks, Carol Humphrey, Pat Rosenbaum and Nancy Daschel all made trips delivering hurricane relief supplies to Illinois? How bold for retired ladies to make this happen? Or that one of our small groups here at church got together and placed 32 chemo-comfort bags in the Wyoming oncology clinic? This past week one very average person drove a person without a car to pick up groceries. One of you introverts told me how at work this past week, you offered to pray for someone who shared a problem, and they let you pray with them, out loud, right then and there! Crazy!

Building your unique life with God is not easy. It’s not fast. It takes tenacity. It takes perseverance. But, the Bible says, God can see what you’re going to be, even when you can’t. “He who began a good work in you, will bring it to completion until the day of Christ’s return.”

**PP#15:** 2 Peter 1:3-8 (CEB)

3 By His divine power, the Lord has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of the One who called us by His own honor and glory. 4 Through His honor and glory He has given us His precious and wonderful promises, that you may share the divine nature and escape from the world’s immorality that sinful craving produces.

I want you to look at 2 Peter 1. Here Peter is urging Jesus-followers to keep at it. And notice, right away at the beginning of his letter, he gives them this amazing encouragement. 2 Peter 1, starting in verse 3: “By His divine power, the Lord has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of the One who called us by His own honor and glory. Through His honor and glory He has given us His precious and wonderful promises, that you may share the divine nature and escape from the world’s immorality that sinful craving produces.”

Don’t ever forget this verse. “The Lord has given us everything we need for life and godliness” all through Jesus. Do you hear that Church? You are fully equipped, not in your own strength or ability, but in God’s equipping and strengthening in you, to live into the bold plan God has for you. You can pray for that person at work—yes, you!—for God will give you the boldness, and the words to say. You just have to get in there.

God’s honor, God’s glory, God’s promises are given to you! You have the power to resist the worldly selfishness that lurks in you. You can resist it’s cravings. Not in your own strength, but in the power of God’s Holy Spirit within you. You can’t do it on your own, but you’re not on your own!

**PP#16: 2 Peter 1:3-8 (CEB)**

5 This is why you must make every effort to add moral excellence to your faith; and to moral excellence, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, affection for others; and to affection for others, love. 8 If all these are yours and they are growing in you, they'll keep you from becoming inactive and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 5, "This is why you must make every effort to add [–and I'm going to use "build"] moral excellence [on]to your faith; and [on]to moral excellence, [build] knowledge; and [on]to knowledge, [connect] self-control; and [on]to self-control, [connect] endurance; and [on]to endurance, [build] godliness; and [on]to godliness, [build] affection for others; and [on]to affection for others, [build] love. If all these are yours and they are growing in you, they'll keep you from becoming inactive and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Inactive and unfruitful—that means stalled out from pursuing the plan God has for you.

You are created to create. You are built to build. You are building a unique and bold life with God! But you've got to *keep on building*. You've got to keep on adding, more and more. Stop building with the wrong materials: those that satisfy your selfish cravings and base reactions. And start building onto your faith: moral excellence, Scriptural knowledge, and controlling yourself, and patient endurance with a good-attitude, a way of living that others can see God in you, caring for others by making time for them and giving them your attention, and replacing in your heart the self-gratifying centeredness with the self-giving love of God. Then you will not stall and become unimportant.

God is building with you a pretty radical life! You just need to commit to it, and go after it! God will give you all you need! You just need to keep on building, and not give up, or let up!

Here's a film short presented at the Cannes Film Festival in 2010. On purpose, it features Legos, as that drives the point of possibility, when paired with persistence. Have a look.

**Video:** *Click*, 2010 Cannes Film Festival Lego short.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x0R0PLONuM&sns=em> (3 min)

Big ideas "click"—that's a Legos pun—when you keep at it, not give up, and dream big. That inspiration, which in the video comes in the "think box," is the inspiration that the Bible promises that God puts in you, when you add your part to His. God will provide you with whatever you need.

**PP#1: 1 Timothy 4:14-15**

"14 Don't neglect the spiritual gift in you that was given through prophecy when the elders laid hands on you. 15 Practice these things, and live by them so that your progress will be visible to all." (CEB)

So, let's get practical. How do you do that? How do you keep on building a unique life with God, and keep it up over time?

Well, start with the basics, the fundamentals. Commit your life to Christ: foundation on Jesus. Read your Bible. Make prayer your first response. Attend worship—if you're in town, you're in worship! Build relationships with other Christians. If you're around Wednesday evenings, come to M&M! You need the church! I know it's easy to write off the church because sometimes people in church act poorly. But the reality is, we're worse! We need help not to cave into the selfishness

we fight against! Church offers us a community to encourage us, point us in the right way, and provide accountability.

But then, as Paul tells Timothy, add to these fundamentals a practicing of your spiritual gifts. In 1 Timothy 4:14, Paul says, “Don’t neglect the spiritual gift in you that was given through prophecy when the elders laid hands on you. Practice these things, and live by them so that your progress will be visible to all.”

**PP#2:** *Image for spiritual gifts.*

God has built into each of us unique spiritual giftings. They are identified and called out when we are with the Church. But then, we must practice them, and live by them. And when we do, we will improve and grow into God’s plan to the point where others can see it in us.

If you want to know what your spiritual gifts are, ask someone at church. “What do you think my spiritual gifts might be?” Or think, when you are in worship or service with God’s people, what captures your attention or makes you excited. These are good clues. Or, you can always go on our church web site and take the spiritual gifts quiz.

**PP#3:** Keep Building!

1. Begin with the fundamentals.
2. Practice your spiritual gifts
3. Dream with God’s imagination

Begin with the fundamentals, practice your spiritual gifts. And thirdly, dare to ask God what crazy idea He wants you to try. What do you feel that inner nudge to do, that you can’t do if you stay safe and use only your own strength. Dream a dream so big that only God can fulfill it in you.

Dream a dream so big that your only limitation is God’s imagination!

God is working a plan in your life. It takes time. It takes intentional effort. God wants you to build big. He is calling you to build something significant, influential, and important. It all boils down to one question: are you still building?

“He who began a good work in you, will bring it to completion!”

Amen.

**Closing Song:** *Build Your Kingdom Here*

**Memory verse:** “He who began a good work in you will complete it.” -Philippians 1:6

**Check in with Lego Builder:** Did you finish? What does it look like? Good job!

**Benediction**

1 Peter 1:2 “May you have more and more grace and peace through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.” Amen. Go in peace.