

## **The Ride of Your Life** ***Philippians 2:12-18***

### **Understanding a Tough Verse:**

Philippians 2:12

**Therefore** = because of what **Jesus did for you**.

**work out** = bring to **completion**, or continue the **process**.

**fear and trembling** = take seriously your **humility and accountability** to God.

### **The Role God Plays:**

Philippians 2:13

**He does the work in you.**

Romans 8:9-11, Philippians 1:6, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Titus 3:3-8

**He changes your desires.**

Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Hebrews 10:16, Psalm 51:10

**He changes your actions.**

Galatians 2:20, John 14:12, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

**He gives you a new purpose.**

Ephesians 1:4-5

### **The Role You Play:**

Philippians 2:14-16

#### **Lessons from LEGOLAND:**

Trust and follow the **map**.

Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 119:1-11 & 33-37, Joshua 1:8

Don't try to **build** or **operate** the rides.

John 3:3, John 15:10, Romans 5:19, Acts 1:8

**Stay** in the **vehicle** at all times.

Matthew 7:21-23, 1 Samuel 15:22, John 14:23

**Share** the experience with **others**.

Matthew 5:14-16, Mark 8:38, Matthew 28:18-20

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 29, 2006

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**QUICK REVIEW:** This week focused on “the ride of your life.” Looking back over your sermon notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging or interesting from this week’s message?

## MY STORY

1. What is the best theme park or amusement park you have ever been to? What is it that made it such a great place to be?

2. Think of a time from your childhood when you were tempted to disobey a rule or do something wrong. Which statement below best describes how it all worked out.

I broke the rule and took whatever I had coming to me.

I didn’t do it because I was scared of the punishment.

I didn’t do it because I didn’t want to hurt or disappoint someone.

I knew it was wrong and that was enough reason for me.

Other \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Looking back on your spiritual journey can you identify any times where God changed your desires or actions?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Salvation is a gift that God offers us. We can’t work to earn that gift and we can’t work to keep it. However, we still have a role in it. Read the following passages and jot down a few notes to help you distinguish God’s role and our role in the transformation process.

### John 16:13-14

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. [14] He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. [NIV]

**Romans 8:26**

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. [NIV]

**Romans 10:9-10**

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. [NIV]

**2 Peter 1:5-11**

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; [6] and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; [7] and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. [8] For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

[10] Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, [11] and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [NIV]

2. Pastor Chris shed some light on the importance of fearing God. A helpful way to understand this fear is to consider a healthy parent/child relationship. How would you describe what a healthy fear of a loving parent looks like?

How does a healthy fear influence the behavior of a child?

We have a loving and just God who wants us to have a healthy fear of Him. How does the fear of God impact people's actions in the following verses?

**Deuteronomy 6:1-3**

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, [2] so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. [3] Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, promised you. [NIV]

**Nehemiah 5:15**

But the earlier governors--those preceding me--placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. [NIV]

**Exodus 20:18-20**

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance [19] and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

[20] Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." [NIV]

**Psalm 22:23**

You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!  
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! [NIV]

To what extent has the fear of God been a part of your relationship with Him?

How does the fear of God influence your thoughts, words or actions?

3. This week we talked a lot about the work of salvation. The result of that work is transformed lives. God literally changes us from the inside out when we ask Him to. Part of understanding that process of change is taking a new look at ourselves through God's eyes. Take a minute and read how God sees you in Colossians 1:21-23.

**Colossians 1:21-23**

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. [22] But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- [23] if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. [NIV]

How does the way you see yourself compare to the way God sees you?

Is it hard for you to believe that God sees you this way? Why?

What is one step you can take to continue in your faith?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

1. Following Jesus is anything but dull and routine. Chris reminded us that when we give God control of our life He gives us unlimited access to a “park” that is greater than we can imagine. Take a minute to really think about the LEGOLAND analogy. Where do you put yourself in God’s park? Are you still waiting in the parking lot? Are you standing around just inside the gate? Are you trying to build the park yourself? Are you following the map and enjoying what the designer had in store for you?

How much of the park have you enjoyed?

What place(s) do you still want to go?

2. Is there any complaining or grumbling going on in your life that you could ask God to help you give up?