

Scout Sunday – February 6, 2022 – Sermon by Nathan Wales
“5 Ways of How our Duty to God is Like Lego Bricks” – Matthew 7:24-27

Introduction- Hi, I'm Nathan Wales, I am a Life Scout, soon to be an Eagle.

Thank you to all who have supported me in my Eagle Scout project by coming to the Chicken BBQ and apple cider fundraisers- In case you don't know what my project is, I designed and built an architectural model of the Spalding Memorial Library to help encourage kids to come to the library. my model is now on display at the Spalding Memorial Library.

A great thing about Scouts is that it pushes you out of your comfort zone. I did a lot of things I never thought I would do like the wilderness survival badge. I never dreamed I would go on a 50 mile bike ride. However, there are also opportunities to find out more about things you are already good at. Now, for one thing, I love Lego. Whenever I start a new merit badge, I ask myself, "Can I somehow use Lego?" I have found it was possible to incorporate my hobby- Lego - into the movie making merit badge, animation merit badge, model building merit badge, and other merit badges. As you can probably tell I think a lot about Lego, so you wouldn't be surprised that I was thinking of ways to incorporate Lego into my message for Scout Sunday.

At Scouts we are encouraged to be Reverent. Nobody tells us what to believe, but we are encouraged to talk with our family about what it means to do our duty to God. My family and I believe in Jesus, and I've thought about different ways that living for God is like building with Lego.

1. Build on a firm foundation. We build our faith on a firm foundation, like how with Lego, you also build on solid ground. Without a firm base, the model

will begin to become unstable, and easy to knock over. Be sturdy in your relationship with God, not a wibbly wobbly mess.

- Like the verse that was read, the life that we build needs to have a strong foundation to survive the storms. When we don't, it's like building on sand. It might seem like everything is just fine, but when the storms of life come, we can't hold up under the pressure.
- These are false foundations people try to build their lives on:
- *The foundation of wealth.*
- *The foundation of popularity.*
- *The foundation of success.*
- *The foundation of comfort.*
- *The foundation of pleasure.*

2. Like Legos, we are designed to connect. . What good is one Lego brick all by itself? And who are we connected with?

- Like my Gym Coach Travis Barns says, you become the average of the five people you hang around. So if you hang around with dufuses, then you'll act like a dufus.
- Who is the fool? The fool, or the fool following the fool.
- Proverbs 12:26 says: The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
- Proverbs 13:20 says: Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

- Ben Franklin said, “He who lies down with dogs gets up with fleas.”

3. Built for Purpose. A project has a design. If there is a set or a pile of bricks, you can follow the directions or if you consider yourself a Master Builder, you can make up your own plan. However, you won't get very far without a plan. When we build according to plan, we're like the original Master Builder -- Jesus Christ.

- You may think yourself to be insignificant like this little brick up here, but you are made in the image of God and God has a certain place for you.
- Our lives will go better if we live according to the plan He has for us.
- It's possible to rebel against His plan. We might even enjoy “the pleasures of sin for a season.” However, in the long run, we will be truly happy if we live according to His plan.
- Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” God has a plan for each one of us.
- Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

4. Fake vs. the real deal. Parents and grandparents: if you have a loved one who has Lego on their wish list, don't be duped into buying what the real

Lego aficionado calls “FAGO” (short for fake Lego). It will have a pretty box, and it will be a lot cheaper, but the bricks don’t stick together as well and aren’t as well made. It’s one of those things where you get what you pay for.

- There is no substitute for the “real deal” . There is real happiness and counterfeit happiness. people who don’t know God try to fill that void with worldly things like alcohol. In Lego, you can try to use- “Fagos” to replace the more authentic and better brand.
- 1 Cor. 3. 10 God, in his kindness, has taught me how to be an expert builder. I have laid the foundation and Apollos has built on it. But he who builds on the foundation must be very careful. 11 And no one can ever lay any other real foundation than that one we already have—Jesus Christ. 12 But there are various kinds of materials that can be used to build on that foundation. Some use gold and silver and jewels; and some build with sticks and hay or even straw! 13 There is going to come a time of testing at Christ’s Judgment Day to see what kind of material each builder has used. Everyone’s work will be put through the fire so that all can see whether or not it keeps its value, and what was really accomplished. 14 Then every workman who has built on the foundation with the right materials, and whose work still stands, will get his pay. 15 But if the house he has built burns up, he will have a great loss. He himself will be saved, but like a man escaping

through a wall of flames. 16 Don't you realize that all of you together are the house of God, and that the Spirit of God lives among you in his house? 17 If anyone defiles and spoils God's home, God will destroy him. For God's home is holy and clean, and you are that home.

5. There is a logical sequence of steps. God has a special plan for us, and we can't skip ahead of his plan. With a Lego set, you can't skip from bag one to bag five, you have to follow the process, each single thing or event building off one another.
 - No shortcuts to obedience to God.
 - The Bible teaches that there is a progression. A man named Nicodemus came to Jesus with all kinds of questions. Jesus said, in a sense, "First things first." He told him, you must be born again"
 - Hebrews chapter six tells of the "foundation of repentance." Repentance means to "change our minds" about the things we are doing that are wrong. There are times when we look at ourselves and we are going in the wrong direction. To repent means to turn around and go in the other direction.
 - We need to put first things first. In our everyday life there are priorities, like schoolwork before relaxation, or real food before dessert.

In Conclusion. A lot of Lego builders like to share their creations. When we make something awesome, it's nice to share it with others. God is like that too. He's the real master builder. He calls us a "City on a hill." We don't do the right things to be praised, however, people do notice. We are Called to be different.

I'd like to close in prayer and then sing a song with my family.

Dear God, please help us to remember to build on a firm foundation of faith on you, help us to connect to others, help us see that even when we may seem insignificant we were made for a purpose, help us not seek fake, worldly enjoyment, and help us to follow in the order of your plan, and not to skip ahead. Amen.