LEGO Lesson

Theme: Building toward the man or woman God wants us to be.

Things You'll Need:

- Box of LEGOs You could get by with a pile of LEGOs, but the visual impact is
 greater if you can buy a new box of LEGOs. It's the photo on the front that we'll
 key in to, so try to pick up a box that would be of interest to them. If one of your
 kids is into Star Wars, for example, there are tons of great-looking LEGO sets to
 choose from. Pick something they'd like to keep and assemble themselves.
- Optional: if you have a bunch of LEGO pieces around, scoop up a handful of them to use as an additional visual later.

Advance Prep:

No advance prep needed. Your big job is to get the LEGO set—and keep it hidden until you're ready to get the kids together for family devotions.

Running the Activity:

With this lesson, the LEGOs are more of a visual than an object lesson. After you're done with the lesson you'll give the LEGO set to the kids to assemble—but not during it. Since there is no object lesson / activity for this one, you can move right on to teaching the lesson.

Teaching the Lesson:

I'm holding a box of LEGOs. One of the things about a LEGO set is that they always have a great-looking picture on the box. But what do you get when you open the box? Bags of pieces and an instruction manual.

LEGO sets don't come ready-made. You have to build them . . . one piece at a time. And this is a great illustration of life.

We can have a great picture in our minds of what our lives will be like . . . what we'll be like. But that doesn't come ready-made either. Our lives—the people we become—are built one piece at a time.

If we opened this box of LEGOs, we'd find a variety of pieces. Different shapes, sizes, and colors. And there are all sorts of things that build us into the person we become.

- Experiences. The things that happen in our lives—good and bad—are like little LEGO blocks. They piece together to form the person we become. God doesn't waste anything. When we go through a tough experience, it becomes part of us. The lessons we learned and the convictions we formed will stay with us. So even bad things in our lives can build us into better people.
- Choices. Every day we make tons of choices. We choose to be kind—or not. We choose to obey—or not. We choose to do well at whatever we're doing—or not. We choose to do what is right even when nobody is looking—or not. Every choice—good or bad—is like a LEGO piece added to who we become. Our choices reveal the type of character we are building—and the type of person we'll grow to be.
- Education. Certainly, the level of education we get adds to who we become and what we can do. Family. The family we grow up with adds pieces to our LEGO project. Ideally, these should strengthen who we become. Friends. The friends we choose can build us up in healthy ways—or tear us down. They can encourage us to build good things into our lives—or they can influence us to compromise and corrupt ourselves.
- **Genetics**. There is a certain element of genetics involved with who we become. For example, our physical features are already blueprinted to a large degree.
- Dedication to God. Following God, loving him, trusting him, obeying him—all this and more certainly define us and the person we become. If we go to church and follow God only because that is how we are raised, we will not have many "spiritual LEGO pieces" to add to the person we become. If we choose to follow God—not simply because that's what our family does but because that's where our hearts are—then we add strong, key, defining LEGO pieces to who we become. And this dedication to God isn't just a feeling or a decision. It's action. It's about reading our Bible so that we know him—and know how to live. It's putting what we read into practice. Of all the things that build us into the people we become, our dedication to God is the most important.

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. (Ps. 1:1–3)

There are more things, but you get the idea. The person we grow to be is not solely genetics—which is really terrific news. We have a lot of control over the person we become. We said that LEGO sets don't come ready-made, and inside every box

there are bags of pieces and an instruction manual. If we don't follow the instructions, likely the end result won't look as good as the picture on the front of the box, right?

As we apply the whole LEGOs example to life and the picture of the person we want to become, what do you think the LEGOs instruction manual represents? Do we, as Christians, have a manual that shows us how to build our lives? It is natural for us to look only at the person we want to become. But have we considered God? Does he have plans for us? Does he have a picture of the person he wants us to become?

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph. 2:10)

God has plans for us. Things he's created us to do. If we want to become all God designed us to be, it only makes sense that we carefully follow the Bible—God's instruction manual for us—and put into practice what he teaches us to do.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16–17)

Summing It Up:

If I had a little pile of LEGOs and gave you a few minutes to build whatever you wanted, you'd probably come up with something interesting. But if I gave you a huge pile, and you had all day, you'd likely build something phenomenal.

Remember, every experience and every choice is adding to your pile. Your family, the friends you choose—all of these make a difference. And ultimately, following God for real—not just because Mom and Dad do or because we want you to but because you want to—will help you become the person God designed you to be. And that is going to be one amazing person—if you do it his way!

A Special Word for Parents: I'd give them the LEGO set after you're done with the teaching time. Save the box—and maybe display it somewhere with a note taped to it saying something like this: You have a partial picture of the person you want to become . . . and God has the whole picture. May you always follow his Word and make wise choices to become all he designed you to be. Every time they see that box, they'll have a good reminder of the lesson. And when something bad happens, or they have a tough day, point out the box and talk to them about the LEGO pieces they probably added through that hard experience. Those tough times will help form their character and perspective the way God wants—so they can do all the jobs he has planned for them.