

October 24th, Some Assembly Required
Part 4 in the series 'The Gift of Life'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

What Christmas gift did Pastor Jim ask for as a child and why was he disappointed with what he received?

Do you remember any lessons you learned as a child that taught you about delayed gratification?

As he built the radio, what feelings did Jim's initial disappointment turn into?

READ Matthew 7:9-11 (NIV)

Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

Why is it sometimes difficult to believe that God wants to give good gifts?

How can you tie in the example of Pastor Jim's Christmas gift from his parents with this passage?

What was the analogy of the jigsaw puzzle from last week's message?

Why can't we put the broken pieces of life together by ourselves?

A: When we try to do it on our own, all we wind up doing is adding more pieces to the pile, and coming up with new variations of what we think Paradise should be like. All we do is complicate things.

Lets look at what Jesus said immediately before the previous passage:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

What's the metaphorical picture on the puzzle box that we are to go by?

A: Jesus, who is the perfect, flesh and blood, three-dimensional, material representation of God. When you look at Jesus you begin to see more and more clearly which pieces belong, and which

pieces don't. And as you place those pieces into your life, discovering where they fit, how they go together, his image is little by little recreated and restored in you. The image of God, and the author of Paradise is recreated in you.

What does it look like to continue with the puzzle, even when it feels like you're missing a piece (metaphorically speaking)?

How can doing so help us to see that life truly is a gift?