



## Super Mario Brothers

July 9, 2023 Message Notes

*TEXT: JOHN 14:12*

Super Mario Brothers is our featured film this week. The movie's deeper themes are brotherhood, the relationship between fathers and sons, sacrifice, unity, and good conquering evil. How does this popular story intersect with God's unfolding story in the world?



## NOTES

How do the current stories of our culture intersect with God's unfolding story in the world?

The movie's deeper themes are brotherhood, the relationship between fathers and sons, sacrifice, unity, and good conquering evil.

It is about so much more than Mario defeating Bowser to win the hand of Princess Peach.

Bowser is seeking to rule the world and finally capture the coveted Super Star – which gives the player invincibility powers.

Mario and Luigi are trying to launch their very first business, but their reputation becomes tarnished right from the beginning.

Mario's dad says to him, "and the worst part, you're bringing your brother down with you." Mario retreats to play his video game and tells Luigi, "I'm sick and tired of feeling so small."

Stories are powerful, including false ones that we tell ourselves.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

*Ephesians 2:10*

"The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences."

*Proverbs 18:21*

- Some of us today need a fresh word spoken over us.
- Others of us need to evaluate our speech and seek forgiveness for speaking words that destroyed dreams and closed imaginations.

How might we say what we want to say in such a way that adds to life and multiplies our relationship with others, instead of subtracting from it?

"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires."

*James 1:19-20*

### **What produces the righteousness that God desires?**

Speaking words of peace, encouragement, caution (when necessary), and love. These testify to a life made right by the Lord.



“Jesus said, for whatever is in your heart determines what you say.”

*Matthew 12:34*

These verses caution us to slow down, reflect on what is happening in our heart first; then listen, ask follow-up questions, and speak from the outflow of a heart full of love and life.

If Mario had a superpower, it would be his extraordinary resilience in the face of opposition. He perseveres and manages to find a way to keep taking ground on his mission to save his brother.

Toad’s unwavering optimism and courage becomes a source of strength for Mario. He was the only one brave enough to accompany Mario and Princess Peach.

Princess Peach illustrates the **model, mentor, and multiply** pathway to discipleship. But it can still be an obstacle course.

- Mario questions whether or not he has what it takes to finish the course.
- Princess Peach speaks words of life to him and encourages him to continue the journey with her.

The good news about following Jesus is that we don’t have to know everything or get everything right to begin the journey. Jesus simply invites us to follow him.

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

*John 10:27*

Are you listening for Jesus’ voice? Are you following his lead?

God’s Spirit gives us ‘power-ups’ to overcome sin and hardship.

He’s ready to power you up with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control in Galatians 5.

He’s given you the ‘power-up’ of his armor in Ephesians 6.

God has given us to each other - as the church - united together by the power of God’s Spirit to live as the hands and feet of Christ in our world.

Jesus is the world’s only hope.



Even though the characters didn't always get along, their mission to rescue Luigi and save the Mushroom Kingdom united them together.

*"Nothing can hurt us as long as we're together."*

Though the church has fallen so short of God's vision, the church is one of the greatest gifts given to the world.

With Jesus beside our Father on the throne and his Spirit alive in us, we can do more together than we can ask or imagine on our own.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father."

*John 14:12*

