



Spider-Man: No Way Home

July 16, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 4:12

The journey to adulthood involves disappointments and discoveries that require the decision to keep growing onward, upward and onward. Today's movie feature shows us how stumbling blocks can become a stepping stone into higher ground.



NOTES

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

Let what was thrown at you as a stumbling block become a stepping stone into higher ground.

Peter Parker has amazing powers as Spider-Man but he's also a teenager with secret handshakes, shortsighted solutions and real teenage struggles.

Who am I? Where do I belong? How do I make it work?

“I’m the most famous person in the entire world. And I’m still broke.”

The journey to adulthood involves disappointments and discoveries that require the decision to keep growing onward, upward and onward.

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 1:6

Jesus Christ is your model and miracle-working mentor.

In the movie, Dr. Strange is the wizard holding the universe together and keeping it from going to pieces.

Scripture tells us: “The Son is the image of the invisible God...he is before all things and in him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:15, 17

He's more powerful than a wizard and he's at work with you, for you, and in you.

Gospel parallels:

- He’s your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man
- He's got super powers but is not distant or disconnected from us.
- He lives in the neighborhood.
- He's going through life like we do

“The Word (Jesus) became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.”

John 1:14 MSG

- God is a superpower who knows us, became one of us, and in this world let us see his glory with our own eyes.



This world is a spawning ground for evil.

- Men have been made monsters by the abuse of science and circumstance
- Men have been made monsters from their fall (into eels/into a super collider)

“Gods don’t have to choose. We take.” – Green Goblin

The Bible calls that ungodliness - rejecting the true God and acting as if you are God, the ruler of your universe.

“The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

Romans 1:18 NKJV

“There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way of death.”

Proverbs 14:12

There's a difference between not having light and living with eyes closed, refusing to see.

The twist is, winning doesn't mean killing the adversaries. It means helping them change.

The 3 Spidey's decide - *“Let's cure them before they kill us.”* Restore their true humanity, change.

Redeeming grace and sanctification do this - believes that God's grace is greater than all our sin. That whatever monstrous behaviors we show, every person is within reach of God's restoring power.

Peter Parker's Family Values:

- “With great power comes great responsibility.”
- “It's what we do.”
- “Everybody deserves a second chance.”

F.E.A.S.T. = food, emergency, aide, shelter, training.

“It's what we do” means “We serve in order to save lives.”

“To whom much is given much is required.”

Luke 12:48



“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life a ransom for many.”
Mark 10:45

“Happy to serve”

You matter so much that the true and living God would clothe himself in humanity and move into the neighborhood to serve and sacrifice for those he loves.

Every time Spider-Man puts on his Spidey outfit he’s dying to self and sacrificing in order to serve and save others.

All three Spidey’s are men of sorrows, “acquainted with grief.”

“He is despised and rejected, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...”
Isaiah 53:3 NKJV

“Are you gonna go into battle dressed as a cool youth pastor or you got your suit?”

“When you try to fix people, there are always consequences.”

When you help others get their humanity restored, you help them and yourself find your way home.

Home is where your family values are. And you can use them to help others who are lost in the multiverse find their way home, too.

That's what God is doing. It's why Jesus came. It's why the church exists - to help people find their way home to God.

