

*“But there were false prophets, too, in those days, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly tell their lies about God, turning against even their Master who bought them; but theirs will be a swift and terrible end. Many will follow their evil teaching that there is nothing wrong with sexual sin. And because of them Christ and his way will be scoffed at. These teachers in their greed will tell you anything to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago and their destruction is on the way. For God did not spare even the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell, chained in gloomy caves and darkness until the judgment day. And he did not spare any of the people who lived in ancient times before the flood except Noah, the one man who spoke up for God, and his family of seven. At that time God completely destroyed the whole world of ungodly men with the vast flood. Later, he turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into heaps of ashes and blotted them off the face of the earth, making them an example for all the ungodly in the future to look back upon and fear. But at the same time the Lord rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a good man, sick of the terrible wickedness he saw everywhere around him day after day. So also the Lord can **rescue you and me from the temptations that surround us**, and continue to punish the ungodly until the day of final judgment comes. He is especially hard on those who follow their own evil, lustful thoughts, and those who are proud and willful, daring even to scoff at the Glorious Ones without so much as trembling. . .” 2 Peter 2:1-10 (TLB)*

Our Community Groups meet throughout the Denver Metro Area. You can find a listing of these groups online at www.fbc.org/smallgroups. For more information or questions, please contact Ceely Ann at 303.424.2121, ext. 92407 or ceelyann.lonergan@fbc.org.

Please feel free to come down to the front for prayer after service.
“...pray for one another...” James 5:16

The Magic Kingdom

One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, ‘When will the Kingdom of God begin?’ Jesus replied, ‘The Kingdom of God isn’t ushered in with visible signs. You won’t be able to say, “It has begun here in this place or there in that part of the country.” For the Kingdom of God is within you.’ Later he talked again about this with his disciples. ‘The time is coming when you will long for me to be with you even for a single day, but I won’t be here,’ he said. ‘Reports will reach you that I have returned and that I am in this place or that; don’t believe it or go out to look for me. For when I return, you will know it beyond all doubt. It will be as evident as the lightning that flashes across the skies. But first I must suffer terribly and be rejected by this whole nation. [When I return] the world will be [as indifferent to the things of God] as the people were in Noah’s day. They ate and drank and married--everything just as usual right up to the day when Noah went into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot: people went about their daily business--eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building--until the morning Lot left Sodom. Then fire and brimstone rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. Yes, it will be “business as usual” right up to the hour of my return.’”

Luke 17:20-30 (TLB)

Kingdom: a state or government having a king or queen as its head; anything conceived as constituting a realm or sphere of independent action or control

Kingdoms compete for your allegiance, your resources, your time...What does the Magic Kingdom offer?

- **Fantasy:** imagination, especially when extravagant and unrestrained

- Fiction: something feigned, invented, or imagined; a made-up story

What if people were born in the Magic Kingdom? The Magic Kingdom is predictable in that:

- It provides entertainment
- It consumes us
- It provides opportunity for escape from reality

1. Every choice you make will be based on a foundational truth you have embraced

“You are the world’s seasoning, to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavor, what will happen to the world? And you yourselves will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the world’s light—a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:13-15 (TLB)

- People are first sheltered in, then shaped by their culture

The Three D’s of Magic Kingdom Living

2. The Magic Kingdom is filled with distractions

“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is

the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.”

Matthew 24:37-39 (NLT)

It targets your:

- Values
- Expectations
- Priorities

3. The Magic Kingdom causes people to make unwise decisions

“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, ‘I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.’” Genesis 6:11-13 (NIV)

- Often subtle, a place where good things have no boundaries

4. People living in the Magic Kingdom become deceived

“Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.” Genesis 13:10-13 (NIV)

- It starts with excluding and ignoring God