

# Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you as our guest today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and “at home.”

## Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

## Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

## Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

### CARDBOARD TESTIMONIES

*“Believe it ~ God desires to shape you into a trophy of His grace”*  
Ephesians 2:10

We are all common “**cardboard**” people—even the Bible heroes

- How have you been responding to God's request to spiff you up?
- Look at Bible heroes in their grubbies, and see how God made trophies out of them—just like He longs to make out of you.

**Ephesians 2:5, 7** “... even though we were spiritually dead and doomed by our sins, he gave us back our lives again when he raised Christ from the dead—only by his undeserved favor have we ever been saved—And now God can always point to us as examples [trophies] of how very, very rich his kindness is, as shown in all he has done for us through Jesus Christ.” TLB

**Ephesians 2:10** “For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” NLT

- God intends to make you into a “masterpiece” that will be like a \_\_\_\_\_.

### God's Sample Masterpiece Trophies

#### ABRAHAM

- He was a common sinner who God continued to shape into the patriarch of God's chosen people.
- God chiseled away the dirt chunks and gave him the name “father of the faithful!”

#### MOSES

- He was forced to run for his life and live as a \_\_\_\_\_. Plus, he had a speech impediment.
- “**But God**” ~ selected this broken man to shape to deliver the Hebrews from Egyptian bondage, give us His pure Law, and lead a million plus people to the Promised Land.

#### MARY

- She was a middle school-age girl, in a male-dominated culture, raised by poor parents with no influence.

- God chose her to shape into a masterpiece and give birth to His Only Begotten Son—the Messiah.

- What she became was not of her abilities, but it was ALL \_\_\_\_\_ of grace!

## CARDBOARD TESTIMONIES

- Consider people around you who God has been shaping into masterpieces of His mercy and grace.
- He is not finished transforming them ... or you yet!

## YOU ARE ON HIS \_\_\_\_\_ LINE

- Each of us is a trophy in progress. That is one of God's majestic ways.
- Has a flicker of fresh hope and faith broken through the surface within you?
- Are you humbled as you've reflected on how God has been transforming you?

### Take time right now to answer this question:

“What is God saying to me about becoming a masterpiece (a cardboard testimony) and helping someone else become a masterpiece?” Write down what you sense God is saying to you, and then respond accordingly.

• Is something surging within you to reach out and allow God to use you to gently and reverently shape that person into a masterpiece who He has placed in your life -- one of God's trophies. **If this is happening, respond now to the urging of the Holy Spirit and pray a prayer of encouragement for the person to whom God is drawing you.**

• This week make every effort to hear God's voice as you ponder what it means to be one of God's masterpieces. Reflect on Ephesians 2:10.

• Surrender yourself to God, allowing Him to use you as a person who He uses to shape someone else to become one of His “**cardboard testimonies**”.

**LIFE DOESN'T GET ANY MORE REWARDING!**

## “Cardboard Testimonies”

For personal or small group study

Week of October 26, 2008

**We are God's workmanship** (work of art, masterpiece). Our salvation is something only God can do. It is not what you make of yourself or dress yourself up to look like; it is what God makes of you or how He “dresses you up” to look. If God considers us His work of art, we dare not treat ourselves or others with disrespect or as inferior work. [Discuss with your group.]

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What trophy have you ever won? What makes a trophy valuable? How can we be considered God's trophy or masterpiece? How are you a trophy in progress? [Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:5-10]
2. What role do we play in the potential making of a human masterpiece? Who has helped shape you as one of God's masterpieces? In what ways? [2 Corinthians 1:4-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15; Hebrews 10:24] How do you feel when you have helped someone in this process?
3. Take time in your group for everyone to write down their own cardboard testimony. The testimony must be written with a few words of where you were, and the “praise” part is a few words of how God has changed you. Share these cardboard testimonies within the group.

Now, have a few people share about how God used someone to be instrumental in the life-change, shaping process in their life.

4. Discuss this question: “*How can I make the best use of what God has given me?*” How do you see God's grace, mercy and power in accomplishing this in you? [Ephesians 4:1-3,13-16; 2:4-5; 2 Timothy 2:15]
5. How has this study helped you grow spiritually? Be specific. What are you going to do with what you have learned? To whom are you going to be accountable?