

Feb 1 – Bible Story – Corinthians – Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

Movie – Incredibles

Theme – We all have gifts, together we will accomplish great things

The Incredibles was released November 5, 2004... averaging \$17,917 per theater.

The film received a 97% approval rating at Rotten Tomatoes which as of October 2014, made the movie the tenth most highly rated animated film of all time. The site's consensus reads: "Even though *The Incredibles* is more violent than previous Pixar offerings, it still a witty and fun-filled adventure that almost lives up to its name."

The film won the Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature, as well as Best Sound Editing. It was Pixar's first feature film to win multiple Oscars. *The Wall Street Journal* called *The Incredibles* the year's best picture. The film also received the 2004 Annie Award for Best Animated Feature and the 2005 Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form, and it was nominated for the 2004 Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy. It also won the Saturn Award for Best Animated Film. The American Film Institute nominated *The Incredibles* for its Top 10 Animated Films list.

Who has seen it?

The movie goes something like this: Bob Parr (A.K.A. Mr. Incredible), and his wife Helen (A.K.A. Elastigirl), are the world's greatest famous crime-fighting superheroes in Metroville. Always saving lives and battling evil on a daily basis. But fifteen years later, they have been forced to adopt civilian identities and retreat to the suburbs where they have no choice but to retire of being a superhero and force to live a "normal life" with their three children Violet, Dash and Jack-Jack (who were secretly born with superpowers). Itching to get back into action, Bob gets his chance when a mysterious communication summons him to a remote island for a top secret assignment. He soon discovers that it will take a super family effort to rescue the world from total destruction.

Our scripture for this morning is one that I preached on this summer. So why am I preaching on it again so soon? Partly because it went well with a Disney Pixar movie. The other reason is that every time I ask you what you are good at, I get... crickets. So let me ask you again this morning... what are you good at???

I have asked you that a lot, so I thought that maybe I should answer it too. What am I good at? Well I hope that I am pretty good at sermons and speaking. I think I am funny (though often I am the only one in the room laughing). I am fairly organized (though don't go look at my desk today!)

Ok... so those are a few things that I am good at. I listed 3. I might have a few more, but not a whole lot. What did I not mention? Accounting. Electrical. Computers. Cooking. But then I look out at all of you. And I see the people who I would call on if I needed help with anything accounting, electrical, computers, or cooking.

Our scripture says, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses."

I sometimes think that people (that would be you) aren't willing to admit what they are good at because they think that if they are not good at a lot of things, or REALLY good at one thing, they are not good at anything. We are all good at something and none of us are good at everything. That means that you are good at the things that I am not and you can help me out. It also means that I am good at something you are not, so I can help you! (hence me being up here speaking and not you... though Laity Sunday is in October and I am looking for someone to speak!)

The point is... we have to work together. Individually we will not get very far.

****Let's watch a clip from the movie.****

Earlier in the movie Mr. Incredible tried to take out the evil villain Syndrome on his own, but he failed. So in this clip, he learns the important lesson of working together. Our superheroes have great talents: Mr. Incredible is a superhero with great strength and durability. His wife Helen, known as Elastigirl, is a resourceful and stretchy superhero. Violet, the daughter of Bob and Helen, has the ability to produce force-fields and turn invisible. Dashiell Robert "Dash" Parr is at age 10 the elder son of Bob and Helen Parr. He has the ability to move at great speeds. Jack-Jack is the youngest child in the Parr family. His primary power is shapeshifting, but has a large number of other powers. Lucius Best, also known as Frozone, is the best friend of Mr. Incredible. He can create ice and freeze surfaces with his hands.

Our superheroes have amazing talents- ones I'm sure many of us wouldn't mind having. But we too have wonderful talents. And just like how Mr. Incredible could not defeat the evil villain Syndrome on his own, we cannot save the world on our own. Mr. Incredible needed others... his talents needed to be added to other talents in order to accomplish the seemingly impossible. So we too need each other. We need to meld our talents with the talents of others. Then, together, we can accomplish great things. But to accomplish the seemingly impossible, we also need the help of God. Together, all of us, including God, can truly make a difference. We need to believe in ourselves, each other, and God.

Let's do an activity that shows this in action. Are you ready? Ok, I am going to break you up into groups. Now, during this activity, there is no talking. When I show your group what to do, keep doing it until I show you a different action. Ok? You'll understand as we get going.

Rainstorm:

- Start by tapping palm with one finger, then go to two fingers
- Rub hands together
- snap fingers (can't snap-clap with only TWO fingers....)
- gently patting knees
- Stamp feet
- Increase the noise by switching to hand clapping as the storm reaches its height.
- "BOOM!"
- Backwards thru sequence to simulate storm subsidence

Together, we made rain! Now I have a question. Could this activity have been done with just one person? How about only 2 or 3? No. We needed all of you! Every one of you! Regardless of age, physical ability, or skill level, we needed everyone in order to make our rain storm.

****Let's watch another group make it rain.****

So what? We all have gifts. Together we can accomplish a lot. In fact, together we can save the world! 😊 Or at least make a dent in it. But we need each other. We all have gifts and talents. God-given gifts and talents. So we need to use them, in cooperation with one another, to accomplish great things. No gift will go unused. So know your gifts, cultivate them, and USE THEM. You all are wonderfully gifted people! Realize that! Be proud of that! And then we can use our gifts together to make a difference. Amen.