

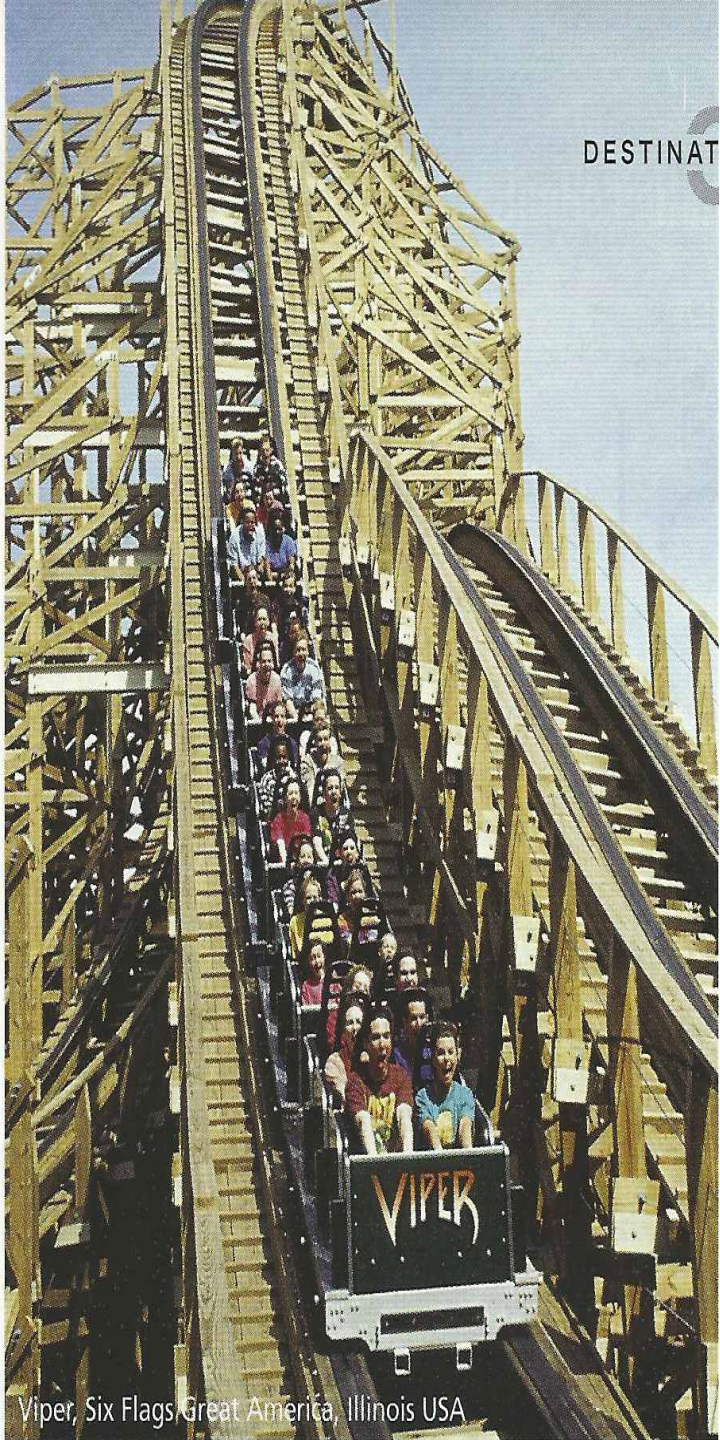


VBS 2013
BIBLE STUDY
WEEKEND/LOCK IN

30 AUG – 1 SEPT

BIBLE STUDY
SESSION ONE





DESTINAT



Batman: The Ride, Six Flags Great America, Illinois USA

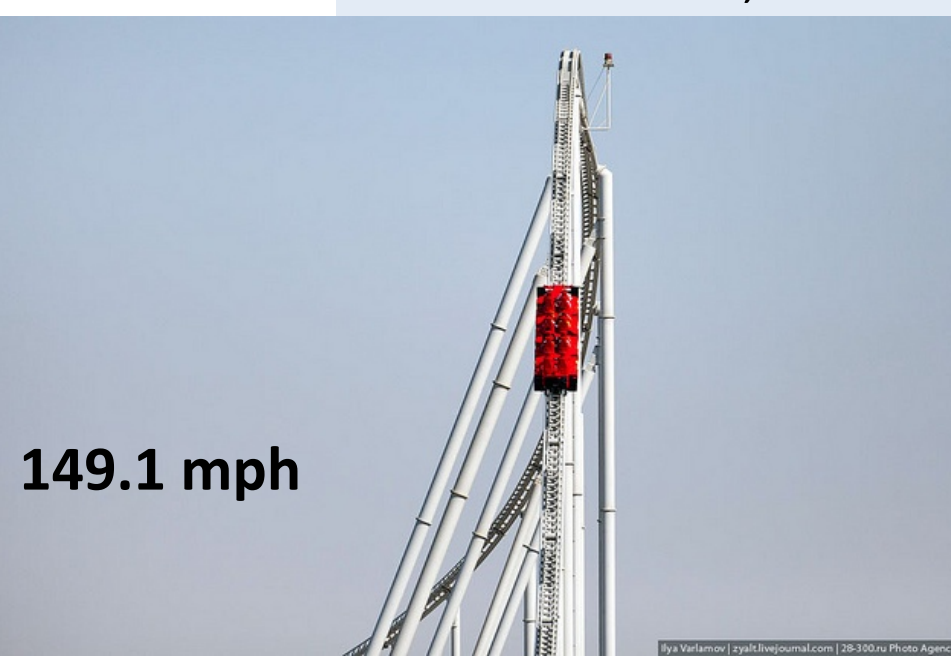
Viper, Six Flags Great America, Illinois USA

WORLD's current record-holding roller coasters

- extreme rides
- scream machines that are the fastest, highest, “death-defyingest” attractions
- fearsome thrill rides
- an element of surprise – sudden darkness, inverted loop, sharp turn – you never know what's coming next



FASTEST : Formula Rossa, Ferrari World,
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



149.1 mph





TALLEST:
Kingda Ka – 456 feet
Six Flags Great Adventure
Jackson, New Jersey, USA



STEEPEST DROP – 418 feet





MOST INVERSIONS

Jinling Happy World: 8,133 feet
Lu'an, Anhui, China





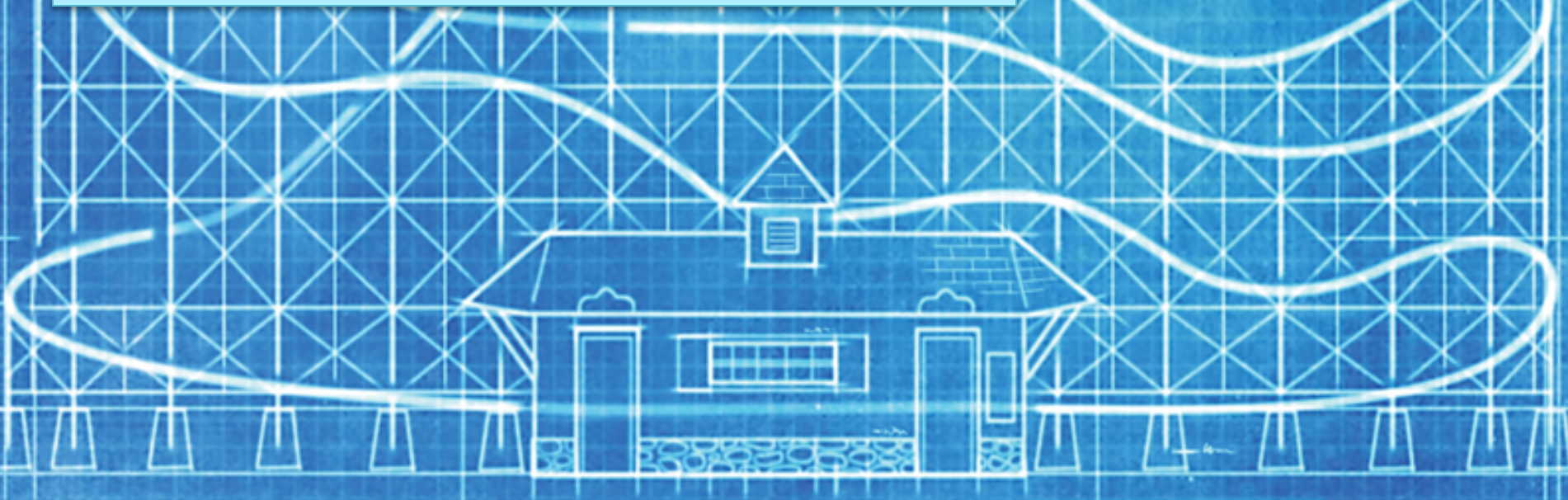
LONGEST :

Steel Dragon 2000

8,133 feet 2 inches – Nagashima,
Japan



Sometimes, our life feels like a roller coaster – full of ups and down, extreme twists and turns; or maybe we sense we are headed toward a dark tunnel at full speed.



FRONT ELEVATION
PLAN TO BE RETURNED
WITH FINISHED JOB

In what ways did God prepare you to accept the gospel message?

Is God prompting you to make a change in your life ?

When did you invite someone to come with you to church ?

Who will you invite ?

ACTS 9

1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest
2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.
3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"
5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.
6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."
7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.
8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.
9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.

11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem.

14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again **and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**"

18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

What happened to Saul on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-19) is so significant that Luke repeats this incident TWICE more in Acts :-

■ **Acts 22:3-16** Paul speaks to the Crowd

■ **Acts 26:9-18** Paul before Agrippa

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9 **For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.**

THEME PARKS & ROLLER COASTERS

- “flow patterns” – normal progression of people through a park
- engineers/designers map out a way that will make our experience more enjoyable
- In life, God has a direction for our greatest pleasure
- BUT we resist and move against the flow; doing things our way – we think we are smarter than our Designer

OPENING OUR EYES



our eyes are to see ... to witness
but our eyes can also reveal our thoughts and emotions

**GOD'S
PURPOSE**

**GOD'S
LOVE**

TWO EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO :

1.HAD THE WRONG ATTITUDE

2.CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDE

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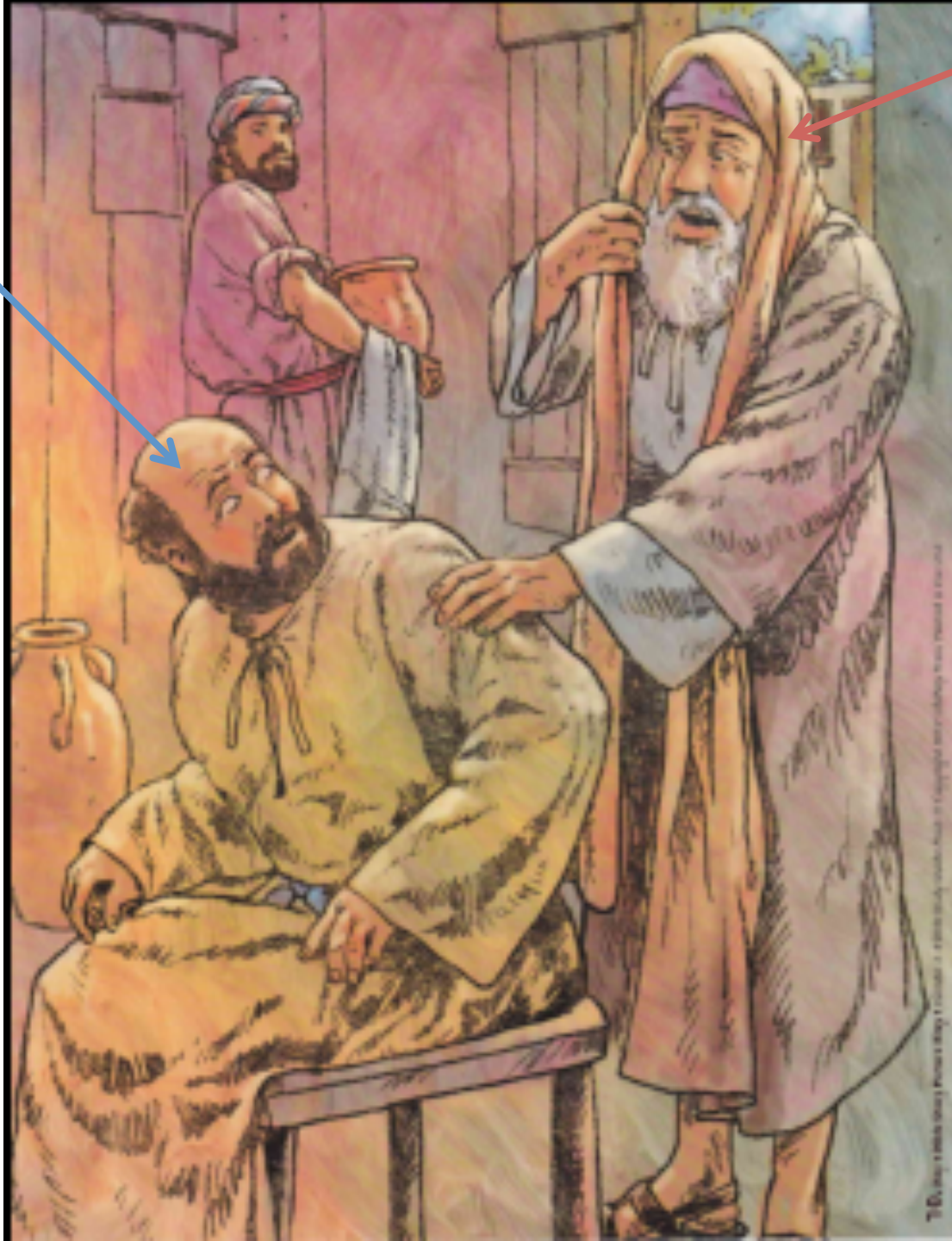
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SAUL

- A Pharisee
- A Jew born in Tarsus
- A defender of God's laws
- persecuted the followers of "the Way"



ANANIAS

- a disciple of Jesus
- thought Saul to be a truly despicable person
- reluctant Gospel messenger

SAUL

- “Who are you, Lord?” addressing the heavenly being with respect
- Saul grapples with realisation that he lived in zeal for the one true God And he was persecuting the Church
- 3rd party witnesses (Act 9:7)
- Punishment/divine disfavour ; see 1 Tim 1:13 God’ s The Lord's Grace to Paul
- 12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
- Born Again i.e. born into the family of God, the Church

SIGNIFICANCE:

- Gal 1:14-18 The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy. And they praised God because of me.
- Saul became Paul ... more powerful
- Proved to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ
- Fully abandon and totally surrender to God’ s plans and priorities
- Walk by grace and never lack for expectation; To live is Christ.

ANANAIS

- “Yes, Lord” = I am ready
- God never gives up on people no matter who they are and what they have done.
- God is calling us to love the unlovable, give grace to the sinner, welcome the lost.
- To be truly and completely faithful

Compare the lives of Saul and Ananias

	SAUL	ANANIAS
GOD SPOKE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a light from heaven - a voice on the way to Damascus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “vision”
OBEDIENCE REQUIRED	<p>Had no choice but to obey</p> <p>Because (1) he could see nothing (2) what had happened made him confused</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “yes, Lord” - When he heard what he was to do, he was reluctant to obey because of fear
POSSIBLE FEARFUL RESPONSES(S)	<p>“Who are you, Lord?”</p> <p>Physically blinded by the light /glory of God</p> <p>3 days of darkness</p>	<p>protests</p>
EVIDENCE OF CHANGE	<p>Persecutor of the Way transformed to be one of the greatest religious preacher/missionary for Christ</p>	<p>Showed a deeper and truer obedience to Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Trust

2 Tim 1:7

For God has not give us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love and sound judgment. (HCSB)

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (NIV)

God does not give us a spirit of fear BUT the **desire** and power necessary to change.

When God is changing us – we have every reason to embrace rather than fear the **changes.**



STOP AND CONSIDER

All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on his name? (Acts 9:21)

(1) What changes has Christ made in your life since you put your trust in Him ? Even if you received Him as a child, how is He continuing to change you as recently as today ?

(2) How do you react to your seemingly constant need for repentance and refinement? Does it drive you crazy ? Does it discourage you? Or does it comfort you to know that He’ s all willing to keep working on you ?

Can you imagine how differently Saul must have approached God after what had happened? From that moment, each step he took had new significance. Damascus was northeast of Jerusalem, so Saul walked past the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. He walked through the Kidron Valley, dodging the hardened ground over ancient graves. He walked through the city gates where he was recognised instantly. The chief priests expected him to return with prisoners. Instead, only one prisoner returned: a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

(3) Are there elements of your reputation that make it hard for you (especially at work or within your family) to relinquish visible control of your life in Christ ?

What patterns of expected behaviour present the toughest obstacles to overcome ?

(4) What attitudes or actions do you think God wants you to change as a result of studying His Word ?

(5) Describe one way you will be obedient to what God is showing you through this Bible Study.
