

Ride of Your Life

Overview	Following Jesus is a thrilling ride.
Title	Ride of Your Life
Metaphor/Image	Roller coasters, theme parks
Treatment	The joy of being a disciple of Christ is much like the exhilaration of riding a roller coaster.
Human Need	Anticipating a thrill; this is redeeming it.
Experience	Being a disciple of Jesus is thrilling, not boring.
Word	
Primary Scripture	Luke 10:17-22
Lectionary Week	5 th Sunday after Pentecost, Year C
Related Scripture	Genesis 11:27-12:9; Luke 9; Exodus 15:1-21
Topics	
Primary Topics	Faith, discipleship, being sent, joy
Related Topics	Commitment, spiritual stamina/endurance, call to action

Movie Clip Suggestions

1. *National Lampoon's Vacation* (1983)
Plot: The Griswold family's cross-country drive to the WallyWorld theme park proves to be much more arduous than they ever anticipated.

Clip: The Griswolds break into the park and ride roller coasters while holding a guard at bb-gun point. The clip is great for introducing the theme, in order to talk about the experience of riding a roller coaster.
Time: (VHS) 1:29:18-1:31:05, length 1:47

Music Suggestions

1. "Roller Coaster"—by the Ohio Players, covered by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Good for an opener/feature.

2. "Ride of Life"—by 4Him. Good for an opener/feature.
3. "Time of Your Life"—Green Day, a good benediction/postlude song.

Lumiclip Description

An exhilarating ride through 3D that gives worshippers the first-person sensation of riding a classic, Coney Island-style roller coaster. Whether you're afraid of coasters or not, this clip brings out the enthusiast in all of us. Hard driving, fun. Running time:36; Volume 4 Clip 1

Integration

Call to Worship

Recount the thrill of the coaster, accompanied with sound effects of the chains and stills or b-roll of being on a coaster. If appropriate, use the Lumiclip.

"The bar, the climb, the drop, the speed, your gut, being jostled, hanging out over nothingness... At the end of the ride, we don't want it to be over. Riding a great roller coaster is like the joy of being sent out by Jesus. Let's celebrate the thrill ride of ministering in Jesus' name."

Closing Words

Offer thanksgiving to God for the opportunity to ride ("admission to the park"), the courage to get on, and the presence providing safety and freeing us to the experience. Encourage worshippers to grab tickets to give to others, inviting them to the ride of their lives.

Prayer

Lead congregation to ask God for courage for the ride. Maybe do a liturgical response and have worshippers turn to their neighbors and say, "the kingdom of God has come near you." Another option, possibly at the end of the sermon, is a call to discipleship, where people sign their names on their tickets and bring them to the altar to leave if they are willing to be sent out.

Drama

DRAMATIC #1: A group attends a ballgame. They are doing "the wave," "the tomahawk chop," using "thunder sticks," "rally monkeys" and other various crowd activities. A voiceover of a play-by-play announcer is heard, announcing the resurrection of Jesus, news that the crowd is ecstatic and berserk about.

DRAMATIC #2: Two people are standing in line, discussing the reputation of the ride they are waiting for, deciding whether or not to get on.

COMEDIC: Two thrill seekers are up in a plane, about to go skydiving for the

first time. Their instructor does not speak a word of English, and the jumpers can't understand what he's telling them to do.

Display

Midway style games of skill; neon signs, popcorn, and misc. theme park stuff

Other

Have "admission tickets" available the week before to bring. Maybe put them in baskets around the sanctuary the previous week. Also, have greeters dress in theme park wear.

Keywords

Faith, discipleship, being sent, joy, commitment, spiritual stamina/endurance, call to action, roller coasters, theme parks, amusement, thrill, exhilaration, ride of your life, vacation