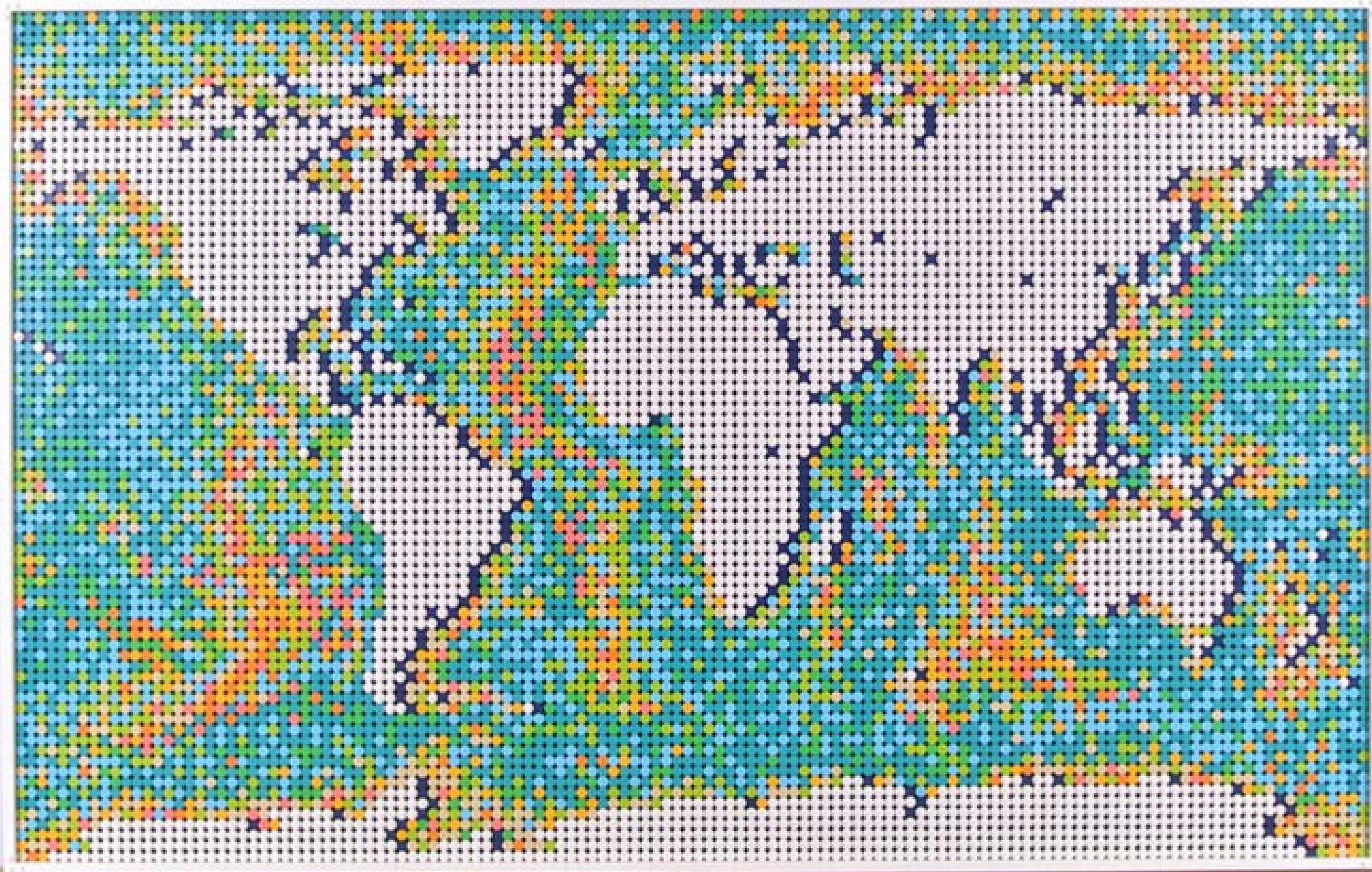


WORD

WITH PS IAN WONG

Joy OF
DISCIPLESHIP





LEGO Art World Map (31203)

104cm
x 65cm

11,695
pieces



LEGO Icons Eiffel Tower (10307)

149cm tall

10001 pieces



30295
pieces

83yrs x
365 days

**What are we
building?**



30295
pieces

83yrs x
365 days

**What are we
building?**

WHAT IS THE
BIG PICTURE
OF THE LIVES WE
ARE BUILDING?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEB 12:1-2

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HEB 12:1-2

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith **conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.**

HEB 11:32-34

Women received back their **dead, raised to life** again. There were others who were **tortured**, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced **jeers and flogging**, and even **chains and imprisonment**. They were **put to death** by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, **destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them**. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

HEB 11:35–38

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

HEB 11:39-40

**THIS IS OUR LEGACY.
THESE ARE OUR FOREBEARS.
THESE ARE THE HEROES OF OUR
FAITH. STORIES LIKE THESE
MARK AND GUIDE OUR LIVES
BEFORE GOD.**

**WE ARE PART OF A FAR
GRANDER STORY THAT
STARTED WAY BEFORE WE
ARRIVED, AND MAY CONTINUE
LONG AFTER WE DEPART**

**ARE WE IN IT FOR SOMETHING
GRAND AND SIGNIFICANT, OR
SOMETHING COMFORTABLE,
MANAGEABLE AND SAFE?**

**OUR RESPONSE TO THIS MAY
DETERMINE WHETHER WE
HAVE ANY USE FOR THE LIFE WE
HAVE IN JESUS CHRIST**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

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HEB 12:1-2

“PIONEER / AUTHOR” – GREEK: ἈΡΧΗΓΌΣ (ARCHĒGOS)

ROOT MEANING

FROM ARCHĒ (“BEGINNING, RULER”) + AGŌ (“TO LEAD”).

LITERALLY: “ONE WHO LEADS FROM THE BEGINNING,”

“FOUNDER,” OR “ORIGINATOR.”

“PERFECTER / FINISHER” – GREEK: ΤΕΛΕΙΩΤΉΣ (TELEIŌTĒS)

ROOT MEANING

FROM TELEIOŌ (“TO MAKE COMPLETE, BRING TO THE GOAL, BRING TO MATURITY”).

TELEIŌTĒS = ONE WHO BRINGS SOMETHING TO ITS INTENDED END OR GOAL.

“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith”

From beginning to end, from immature to mature, it is Jesus who is our supreme example and goal, the first initiator, our saviour, our guide, our teacher and also the one who gives us strength to follow through until we are like Him.

Does Jesus play this role in our lives today? Can we make more room for Him?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEB 12:1-2

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit,
to sustain me.

PS 51:10-12

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation

and grant me a willing spirit,
to sustain me.

Give me a new heart
Renew my will

Don't take your face

Don't take your power

Give me JOY again

It is YOUR salvation

Make me free to obey
you

PS 51:10-12

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.**

PS 51:10–13

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEB 12:1-2

At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we are **receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken**, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”

HEB 12:26–29

**IS YOUR JOURNEY
WITH JESUS ONE
OF JOY?**

"The joy of the Lord is not a mere supplement to the Christian life, optional and available for a few unusual people.

It is the very heart of what it means to be a Christian."

John Piper

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Cor 5:16-17

“Butterflies are
not recovering
caterpillars”



RESPONSE

Are you tired of chasing
pretty rainbows?
And are you tired of
spinning round and round?
Wrap up all the
shattered dreams of your life
And at the feet of Jesus
lay them down.

GIVE THEM ALL

Give them all, give them all,
give them all to Jesus
Shattered dreams, wounded
hearts and broken toys
Give them all, give them all,
give them all to Jesus
And He will turn your sorrow into joy.

He never said, you'd only see sunshine
He never said, there'd be no rain
He only promised a heart full of singing
About the very things that once brought pain.

Give them all, give them all,
give them all to Jesus
Shattered dreams, wounded
hearts and broken toys
Give them all, give them all,
give them all to Jesus
And He will turn your sorrow into joy.

Response

- 1) Those who want a **new heart** from God
confess our need for Him
- 2) Those who want **renewed JOY** in following
and becoming like Jesus
receive the JOY of Jesus to live for God
- 3) Those who want to **live for God's Kingdom,**
and are ready to live for Him
receive the JOY of discipling others

Reflection questions

1) Hebrews 12:1–2 calls us to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

In what areas of my life do I need to shift my focus away from distractions and back to Jesus?

2) The heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 chose to live courageously and with faith in God for something greater than themselves.

What do you think it means today to live for something “grand and significant” in God’s Kingdom, and how does that challenge or inspire you?

3) Psalm 51:10–13 is a prayer for God to restore the joy of His salvation. How have you experienced the joy of God’s salvation in your own life, and what helps you (or hinders you) in keeping that joy alive? Are we able to share this joy with others?