

PEARCE CHURCH

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Dear Pearce Family,

Progressive Insurance has my favorite new commercial. As a couple unpacks their car for their kayaking trip, their conversation goes like this:

Husband: "Hey sweetie, I'm not seeing the life jackets."

Wife: "Well, you should, you packed them."

Husband: "No, you packed them."

Wife: "No, you packed them. You said, 'I won't forget to pack the life jackets.'"

Husband: "I'm sorry, I have to challenge that."

The man throws a red flag, which is the signal in a football game that a coach is challenging the ruling on the field. He's challenging his wife's version of events. The "instant replay team" comes on the scene and the couple watches the rewind of what actually happened. Afterward, the wife says in a smug, self-satisfied voice, "My favorite part was when you said, 'Obviously, I won't forget to bring the life jackets.'"

Conversations with God can go the same way at times. We wonder why he's not doing what we thought he was going to do, or responding in the way we expected him to respond. Sometimes we would like to throw a challenge flag and ask for a replay. Job is a book of the Bible that's a "challenge flag" to God. After all Job's traumatic circumstances, with his friends trying to convince him he must have done something wrong, Job challenges God to reveal himself, to give him the reason for his predicament.

At the end of Job, God shows up with a replay tape that reveals God's glory, power, majesty, and wonder. In awed humility, Job bows in reverence and repentance before the presence of his Maker. This weekend, we will consider, "Where is God when we suffer?" And we will celebrate communion, which is a way of enacting God's replay tape of Jesus' suffering and death so that we remember we are sinners and that God loves and forgives us through faith in Jesus Christ.

With Faith,

Pastor Todd