LIVING IN THE HOPE OF EASTER

REIGN

**Easter Was** the Day Jesus **Proved He** Has ALL Authority



#### Love Reigns Over Our PAST



#### Love Reigns Over Our PRESENT



#### "Simon says touch your nose."



#### We Make Thousands of Decisions Each Day



#### My Choices Reveal Who Reigns in My Life

**Romans 12:1 (NLT)** — "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him."

> LOVE REIGNS

**Romans 12:1 (NIV)** — "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship."



# **Empire State Building Observation Deck**

## "In view of God's mercy"

#### **God's Mercy is the Lens**

- This one thing can change your life!
- God has been merciful to us!



#### **God's Mercy is the Lens**

- This one thing can change your life!
- God has been merciful to us!
- Move focus from what we WANT to be done for us, to what God has ALREADY done for us



#### A Living Sacrifice...

**Psalm 51:16–17 (NLT)** — "You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. **17** The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God."



It wasn't about the SACRIFICE but the HEART behind it. Romans 12:2 (NLT) — "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

> **LOVE** REIGNS



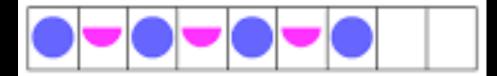
#### **Changing Patterns Will Change Your Life**

## What Should Come Next?











## What Should Come Next?





Once You Know the Pattern, What Comes Next Should Be Obvious







#### **If We Pay Attention to Our Patterns:**

- We can ANTICIPATE what comes next
- We can CHANGE them



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# To Anticipate Patterns:Change Your PERSPECTIVE





#### Trade YOUR Will for GOD'S Will

#### The Ultimate Outcome... The Ability to Distinguish God's Will for Your Life

**Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT)** — "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."



#### Being a Parent Isn't Always Fun and Games



#### Trust is Hard to TEACH, and Even Harder to LEARN

### Let God's Word Become Your Plumb Line



#### Love Reigns Over Our PRESENT