



Wise and Foolish Builders

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GROUP ICE BREAKER

If you could build your dream house where would you build it and what would it look like?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will spend an unhurried, frenzy-free, rush-free time in Scripture this week.
- I will memorize and meditate on Psalm 16:8 this week.
- I will memorize a passage of Scripture that relates to something I struggle with.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week we conclude the Sermon on the Mount by looking at what Jesus teaches about the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7:24-27. Everyone builds a house, and while it may not be a literal house, everyone is building a form of 'house' perhaps better described as character. Everyone is constructing a soul, badly or beautifully, on purpose or by accident, with God's help or on your own.

The house we build will, like our actual physical place of homes, experience seasons of blooming and seasons of storms. No matter how hard we try, the storm always seems to come. Not by having more money or being really smart. Not even by having a lot of faith in God and praying real hard. Jesus says the storm will come. So join us this week as we look at how to build our lives on a strong foundation so that when the storms come, we will be able to stand strong.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define the word 'disciple'? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus for you today?
2. Do you find a link between forming character and discipleship? Explain your 'yes' or 'no.'
3. Why do you think Jesus ended the Sermon on the Mount with a call to discipleship?
4. Matt noted that being a disciple doesn't mean you necessarily have to be a good disciple all the time, the Disciples that first walked with Jesus had moments of 'bad' discipleship. How does it make you feel in your walk with God to know that you have room for failure as a disciple? How does God work in and through those moments of discipleship failure?
5. In the story, Jesus' uses the metaphor of house building to uncover what a wise versus foolish disciple is. Read Matthew 7:24-27, what stands out to you in this story?
6. Matt also talks about the inevitable storm that comes in life. These storms demolish one of the homes in the story of Matthew. What storms have you experienced in your life? What was your relationship with Jesus like during those storms?
7. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus during the highs and lows of life?
8. What stops you from being a disciple in all areas of your life?
9. What does answering 'yes' to discipleship look like for you this week?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will seek to understand Jesus and his way of life.
- I will seek to do what Jesus says above everything else.
- I will build my life on obedience to Jesus.
- I am making a decision to be a disciple of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 7:24-27

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

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