



Small Group Guide: The Forgotten Jesus

“Living Out Our Faith”

Icebreaker

When you hear the phrase "building your life on something," what is the first thing that comes to mind? What has your life been most built around in different seasons?

Key Scripture

Matthew 7:24-29 CSB

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash.” When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.

Main Takeaways

- Jesus closes the Sermon on the Mount with a therefore, meaning everything he taught in Matthew 5 through 7 leads directly to this final challenge.
- There are only two categories of builders. Everyone is constructing a life on something, whether they realize it or not.
- The rock represents a life built on hearing and obeying the words of Christ. The sand represents a life built on self, self-fulfillment, self-sufficiency, self-righteousness, and self-satisfaction.
- The word translated "rock" is the Greek word Petra, meaning bedrock, a solid, immovable outcropping. This is not a pebble. It is a foundation that cannot be shaken.
- The collapse of a life built on sand is not quiet. As Pastor Robby noted, the higher you climb on the wrong foundation, the greater the wreckage when it falls.
- Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned and tortured for his faith, could only be sustained by the Scripture he had hidden in his heart. His example raises a sobering question: if you had no access to a Bible today, how much of the Word would you have stored inside you?
- As Wurmbrand observed, "We don't need Bible-believing churches. We need Bible-living churches."

Discussion Questions

Going Deeper

- Jesus begins verse 24 with the word "therefore." In light of everything he taught in the Sermon on the Mount — the Beatitudes, prayer, money, anxiety, false prophets, true and false conversions — what do you think he is summarizing with that one word?
- Luke 6:48 adds that the wise builder "dug deep." What does it look like in practical terms to dig deep spiritually? What gets in the way of that kind of depth in your own life?
- Pastor Robby described sand as building on self, self-fulfillment, self-purpose, self-sufficiency, self-satisfaction, and self-righteousness. Which of those tendencies do you find yourself most drawn toward, and why?
- The podcast referenced the idea that false prophets are like real estate agents selling lots on the sand. What voices or influences in your life, whether people, platforms, or cultural messages, might be selling you a foundation that will not hold?
- Pastor Robby pointed out that a person on a church staff or in ministry who is not in the Word daily is not just harming themselves; they are dangerous. Do you agree with that? Why or why not? How does that same principle apply to everyday believers?

Personal Reflection

- Chuck Swindoll's illustration describes a company whose employees studied the owner's letters, discussed them, memorized them, and even formed small groups around them, but never actually did what the letters said. How honestly does that describe your relationship with Scripture?
- Richard Wurmbrand and fellow prisoners tapped Bible verses to one another through prison pipes because it was the only Word they had access to. If you were in a similar situation today, how much Scripture would you have stored in your heart to sustain you?
- Pastor Robby asked a practical question worth sitting with: what is the actual point of your day? What does your daily routine reveal about what your life is truly built on?

Closing Prayer

- Ask God to reveal what your life is truly built on, not what you assume it is built on.
- Pray for the courage to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only.
- Thank God that the rock, Christ himself, is immovable, even when the storms come.
- Pray for one another by name, asking God to help each person in the group dig deep this week.