

# Parable of the Builders

## Dig Deep to Stand Strong

### WEEK 2

#### OVERVIEW

1. How have I been handling life?
2. What can I learn from my response to my storms?
3. How do I build God's way?

#### OPENING QUESTION

What do I rely on when life feels hard?

#### INTRODUCTION

Building my life on the Bible isn't about following rules, but trusting that God cares about me enough to make me strong.

#### 1. HOW HAVE I BEEN HANDLING LIFE?

*"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but you don't do what I say? The people who come to me, who listen to my teachings and obey them— I will show you what they are like: They are like a man building a house. He digs deep and builds his house on rock. The floods come, and the water crashes against the house. But the flood cannot move the house, because it was built well. But the people who hear my words and do not obey are like a man who builds a house without preparing a foundation. When the floods come, the house falls down easily and is completely destroyed."*

– **Luke 6:46-49 ERV**

- **We choose how we build:** We can choose what we build our lives on— either God's Word or something else.
- **We will all experience storms.** Both people in the story experience a flood crashing against their house.
- **What is a storm?**
  - **Panic** comes like a stormy blast ... **misfortune** sweeps in like a whirlwind ... **sorrow** and **anguish weigh you down.** (**Proverbs 1:27 Voice**)
  - Storms are the outward circumstances that can bring misfortune (a distressing or unfortunate incident or event) which can lead to panic (fear or anxiety; distress; wildly unthinking behavior).
- **How does this relate to me?** Asking ourselves what storms we are facing and how we are handling them is a good way to figure out what we've been building on.

#### Pause and reflect

- What storms or challenges am I currently facing?
- How have I been handling life in the midst of these challenges?

# Parable of the Builders

## Dig Deep to Stand Strong

### WEEK 2

#### NOTES

## 2. WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM MY RESPONSE TO MY STORMS?

*"The person who hears what I say but doesn't obey it is like someone who built a house on the ground without any foundation. The floodwaters pushed against it, and that house quickly collapsed and was destroyed."*

– **Luke 6:49 GW**

- **How's my foundation?** Building our lives on something other than the Bible will lead to us not having a foundation strong enough to handle life's storms and floods.
- **Why do we build on a weak foundation?** Relying on ourselves or people may feel easier in the moment, but eventually our decisions catch up to us.
- **God can always give new starts:** The good thing about storms and collapsing in them is that they can wash away the weak and wobbly parts of our lives, and make room to build something better.

*"If you work the words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on bedrock. When the river burst its banks and crashed against the house, nothing could shake it; it was built to last."*

– **Luke 6:48 MSG**

- **God wants to help us stand strong.**
- **Standing strong comes from digging deep:** understanding about what you truly rely on or are motivated by.
- Digging down deep means **learning the signs** that the "floodwaters" in your life are starting to knock you down
- **Signs** you might be crumbling in a storm:
  - **You start hiding your real feelings.** Relying on deceit makes us crumble ([Isaiah 30:12-15](#)).
  - **You put up a strong front around your friends.** Pride and acting like you don't need help lead to destruction ([Proverbs 16:18](#)).
  - **You have chronic negative thoughts about yourself and the future.** When we rely on ourselves we can't see the good things that come our way ([Jeremiah 17:5-6](#)).

# Parable of the Builders

Dig Deep to Stand Strong

WEEK 2

## NOTES

## 2. WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM MY RESPONSE TO MY STORMS? (CONT'D)

- **Your thoughts are constantly racing.** Fear and worry can make our thoughts run out of control ([Psalm 94:19 TPT](#)).
- **You are quick to cut off friends who have hurt you.** Bitterness is a poisonous way we handle the pain and hurt of life if we don't let God's grace help us to forgive. ([Hebrews 12:15](#)).
- **You become dependent on the attention of others to feel good about yourself.** People's approval is fickle and if you rely on it you will feel trapped ([Proverbs 29:25](#)).
- **You are jealous and envious of others' success or happiness.** Jealousy leaves us unfulfilled, resentful, and always chasing the next thing we think will make us happy ([Proverbs 14:30](#)).
- Recognizing these signs is an important step to digging deep so you can rebuild your life on a stronger foundation.

### Pause and reflect

- Do I recognize any of the signs listed above in my life? Which ones?

#### NOTES

### 3. HOW DO I BUILD GOD'S WAY?

*What good is it to mouth the words, "Lord! Lord!" if you don't live by My teachings? What matters is that you come to Me, hear My words, and actually live by them.*

**- Luke 6:46-47 Voice**

- **God's Word makes us strong:** When we make decisions to build our lives on God's Word, we can withstand any circumstance, no matter how challenging.
- **Put it into practice:** When you put the Bible into practice and see the results of what it says in your life, your trust in God and his Word will grow ([John 7:17](#)).
- **How does this relate to me?** This is how God becomes personal, because you see how his words make a real difference in your life, and aren't just stories, rules, or words on paper. They are personal and intended to make you strong.
- **Practical ways I can build my life on a strong foundation:** God gives you options (outside of your own emotions, impulses, or abilities) to help you handle pressure, anxiety, and conflict without crumbling:
  - **Being honest** with God relieves you of pressure and shame, and keeps you safe from life's storms ([Psalm 32:1-7](#)).
  - **Admitting your needs** to your friends and asking for help makes you stronger ([Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#)).
  - **Trusting** that God is bigger than you are quiets your negative thoughts ([1 John 3:19-20 VOICE](#), [Jeremiah 29:11](#)).
  - **Believing** God cares about you calms your worries ([Luke 12:6-7 TPT](#)).
  - **Choosing to love and forgive** leads you to have happier relationships ([Galatians 6:1-3](#)).
  - **Learning to find satisfaction in God alone** is freeing ([Psalm 73:23-26](#)).
  - **Embracing the unique and different things about you** and those around you is far more fulfilling than competing with people ([Galatians 5:25-26 MSG](#)).

# Parable of the Builders

Dig Deep to Stand Strong

WEEK 2

NOTES

## 3. HOW DO I BUILD GOD'S WAY? (CONT'D)

### Wrapping up

- You can make a few key decisions to build our lives God's way:
  1. **Set special time aside for God daily.** When you do this, you are telling God that his relationship matters to you.
  2. **Listen to his Word. Spend time understanding your own needs.** Find books of the Bible to read and verses to memorize that encourage you.
  3. **Live by his teachings.** Choose verses of the Bible you want to obey and look for the opportunity in your day to apply them to the things you face or people you interact with.