

2022



# UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

FROM THE "CELEBRATION OF 18 YEARS"

## UPON THIS ROCK I BUILD MY CHURCH

*Matthew 16:15-18 NIV - "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

- This is the first mention of the church
- When you have a revelation of God transformation takes place
- When you get a revelation of God, you get revelation of who you are
- God births the kingdom of God through the church
- Jesus is the foundation of the church
- Jesus is speaking to a team of builders
- When you are part of the church you are part of what God is building
- You cannot build alone - you have to be around other builders
- You are a stone carrier
- Your stone is unique, you can't compare your stone to someone else's
- Your stone is strong, steady, and durable (it will outlast you)
- Whenever we are part of the church we are part of something bigger
- The word of God will change your life

*What is God trying to build through you? Are you cooperating or resisting?*

The church is a people not a building. The church is the agency, Jesus is the rock and the chief cornerstone. Your church connection is what God is building. The church is bigger than you and will live longer than you.

- We are building what God is building
- Help build God's thing and He will bless your thing
  - Noah built an ark with the help of his family
  - Nehemiah built a wall with a team
  - Solomon built a temple with 30,000 people, in division of three and people had to know their lane
- God's building you using your life
- Everything in your life happened for a purpose

*What are you changing? What have you helped to advance in the kingdom? If nothing, why not? What are you waiting for? How do you figure out where you belong?*

## STONES

The words rock and stone, referring to the prime elements in ancient foundations, are used in the scriptures as metaphors signifying strength, steadiness, and durability.

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## CARRY THE STONES

*Joshua 4:5-7 NIV - and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."*

- Pay attention to various stone carriers in your midst
- What they are carrying is meant to remind you of God has done
- God has been faithful through your journey
- Your journey becomes memorial and reflection for where you have been
- Remember who knew you then but let you evolve
- These are the people who lay the foundation through the sacrifices along the journey
- It's what you stand on that you remember the faithfulness of God
- God has brought you a mighty long way

*Who has laid the foundation for you? What sacrifices are you making for the kingdom? If you have carried or currently carry stones, what do your stones mean to you?*

## BUILD WITH STONES

*Deuteronomy 27:1-2, 5-6 NIV - Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people: "Keep all these commands that I give you today. When you have crossed the Jordan into the land the Lord your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with plaster.*

*Build there an altar to the Lord your God, an altar of stones. Do not use any iron tool on them. Build the altar of the Lord your God with fieldstones and offer burnt offerings on it to the Lord your God.*

- The higher you go, the deeper down the foundation has to be built
- Build with your story and history
  - Your praise create an atmosphere of worship
  - Your confession is your weapon
  - Your words create your world
- When you get to your promise, don't forget where you came from
- Make something that will reflect God
- When you come together with other stone carriers, you build an atmosphere that glorifies God
- Everybody, even those who didn't build with you, will benefit from the smoke from the altar you build

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*What has God created you for? What is your purpose? Are you intentional about creating and carrying an atmosphere that worships God?*

## **SLAY WITH STONES**

*1 Samuel 17:49 NIV - Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.*

- Take the victory God gave and use it
- Slay like David slayed Goliath
- David carried 5 stones - you must be able to multitask
- Every giant in front of you has to come down
- The gates of hell shall not prevail against His church
- Draw from your experiences to slay the giant in front of you
- That's why you're undetectable, you know who you are and you know what you do
- Put the Word into practice
- Live what you learn
- Living what you learn makes you wise

*Matthew 7:24-25 NIV - "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."*

- You were born for this
- There will be no stagnation, use innovation
- Everything in your journey is about to make sense
- Everything in your life has prepared you for this moment
- You ain't going nowhere because you built on the right foundation

*What are you slaying with your stones? When you read God's Word, what have you heard Him say to you? How are you using innovation to put into practice what you have learned?*

## **PRAYER**

Father God, thank you for allowing me to be a part of your church. You have connected me to stone carriers, you have allowed me to see how to build with stones and you have equipped me to slay with stones. I thank you for my history which has allowed me to journey to my destiny. I give you glory for the pillars of Your Word, worship, outreach, prayer and community development. I will uphold your pillars with everything within me, In Jesus' name. Amen.

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