

**Icebreaker:**

What are some areas in the past where you have deceived yourself or others to avoid a more difficult end (ex: lying to avoid correction, gossiping for the purpose of 'advice', etc.)? This is the type of behavior that is described as building on top of sand (Matt 7:26).

Here are some examples from the Bible of people under self-deception:1) Genesis 3:1-13

Eve was deceived by the allure of gaining wisdom equal to God.

Q. What are some things in our lives that we would do anything for?

Q. What are some goals/dreams you have pursued that ultimately were not good for you (or did not work out)?

Q. How in your life are you deceived, like Eve, that you do not have enough?

2) Obadiah 1:2-4

Edom gained their security in what they have built for themselves.

Give an example of a time in your life when you relied on something you built rather than on God.

3) 2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman did not like the answer he was given.

Q. What changed his mind?

Q. Has there been a time where you were instructed in such a way that your faith was challenged to overcome your unbelief?

1 Peter 5:5-7 (Proverbs 3:34-35)

These two passages refer to our need for humility to combat against being deceived by pride.

Q. What are some things you can do to stay humble?

Final Thoughts

Conduct a heart assessment and ask your closest relationships what they see in you.

Are there areas of your life that you need help with?

Further StudyMatthew 5-7

Jesus refers to what he has already spoken about ("these words of mine" in Matthew 7:24). If we act upon these words of his, we will not be like the man who builds on sand.

Q: What are some of the teachings of the scriptures that are hard to follow?

Q: What are other sayings that you have been deceived to believe in the past?

Q: What types of storms have moved through your life that put your beliefs on trial? (7:27)
