



# Hoboken Church

## 5-Day Devotional: Building on the Right Foundation

### Day 1: The Source of True Growth

**Reading:** John 15:1-8

**Devotional:** Growth is not something we manufacture through our own effort or willpower. Jesus makes this abundantly clear: "Apart from me you can do nothing." Like branches connected to a vine, our spiritual vitality depends entirely on our connection to Christ. We can attend all the right events, read all the self-help books, and optimize our routines, but without abiding in Jesus, we're simply going through motions. Today, resist the cultural pressure to produce growth through your own strength. Instead, focus on staying connected to Jesus the true source of life. Spend unhurried time with Him, not to perform or impress, but simply to be with the One who gives growth. What areas of your life have you been trying to grow through your own effort rather than through connection with Christ?

### Day 2: Christ Alone as Foundation

**Reading:** Matthew 7:24-27

**Devotional:** Two builders. Same storm. Different outcomes. The difference wasn't in their building skills or the quality of their materials it was in their foundation. We live in a culture obsessed with building impressive lives: successful careers, strong networks, polished reputations. But Jesus warns that anything built on sand our own strength, others' approval, worldly success will collapse under pressure. The foundation that holds is Christ alone. Not Jesus as a good idea or helpful philosophy, but Jesus crucified and risen. This week, examine what you're actually standing on. What shakes your peace? What controls your sense of worth? Whatever you fear losing most reveals what you've been building on. Name it honestly, then bring it to Jesus and rebuild on the only foundation that will never crack or crumble.

### Day 3: We Are God's Temple

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:19-22

**Devotional:** God no longer dwells in buildings made of stone—He dwells in His people. This isn't just beautiful theology; it's a sacred reality that should transform how we view ourselves and others. You are not just attending church; you ARE the church. God's presence lives in you and in every believer around you. This means every interaction carries spiritual weight. How you treat people is how you treat the place where God lives. Your words either build up God's temple or tear it down. Today, look at the people around you through this lens. That coworker who frustrates you? God's temple. That family member you've been avoiding? God's temple. This week, choose one specific relationship where you've been critical or withdrawn, and intentionally speak life instead. Send an encouraging text. Offer genuine forgiveness. Move toward someone instead of away.

## Day 4: The Temple Torn Down and Raised Up

**Reading:** John 2:18-22; Ephesians 2:13-16

**Devotional:** When Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," He was speaking of His own body. The religious leaders thought He was crazy, but Jesus was revealing the most profound truth: He would be torn down so we could be built up. On the cross, Jesus took everything we've been carrying our sin, our pride, our exhausting need to prove ourselves and gave us what we could never earn: forgiveness, love, and a new identity. The cross isn't for the version of you that looks put together. It's for the real you right now struggling, questioning, exhausted from trying to hold everything together. Jesus was broken so you don't have to be. His resurrection proves that His foundation holds. Stop striving to fix yourself and trust what Jesus has already finished. You don't have to earn what He freely gives.

## Day 5: Living from What's Already Built

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Colossians 2:6-7

**Devotional:** The Christian life isn't about building yourself up through greater effort it's about living from what Christ has already built. Paul says we are "rooted and built up in Him." Notice the order: first rooted (connected), then built up. Too often we reverse this, trying to build impressive spiritual lives while neglecting our connection to Jesus. This week, shift from striving to trusting. Instead of asking, "What more can I do?" ask, "Am I staying connected to Jesus?" Growth happens naturally when we abide in Him. Your invitation today isn't to fix yourself but to rest in what Jesus has already accomplished. You already belong. You're already loved. You're already enough because of Christ. Now live from that truth rather than trying to earn it. What would change in your life if you truly believed you have nothing left to prove?

**This Week's Practice:** Each morning, before checking your phone or starting your to-do list, spend five minutes simply being with Jesus. No agenda. No performance. Just connection.

Tell Him one thing you're trying to control, and ask Him to help you trust His foundation instead of your own.