



# Welcome!

**Series: First Comes Love**

**Message: Surviving Relationship Storms**

**Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor**

**PRAYER:** God, you are in charge of the still and the storm. Enable us to build our lives and our relationships on the firm foundation of your truth. Bless each of us whenever we encounter storms. Surround us with your love, protection, and angels. We give YOU all the praise and glory forever, Lord, and know that even in the darkest hours, YOU are always with us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**ICEBREAKER:** Have you ever lived through a natural disaster? What was it like?

**INTRODUCTION:** It's one thing to know a lot about weightlifting and another thing to actually lift weights. It's one thing to know a lot about nutrition and another thing to eat healthy. Similarly, it's one thing to know a lot about the scriptures and another thing to actually live out what it teaches. That's why the Christian life *isn't* just about knowledge. It's when our acts of faith intersect with God's faithfulness that our faith grows. From Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builders, we discover that hearing and learning are not enough. The value is in the application, because, in the end, it's obedience that makes all the difference.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Read St. Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV)

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today? What points did you find most insightful? How did the message challenge you?
2. **Click on this link:** <https://youtu.be/lukDWhf7U9l> Security cameras caught this footage from the Corvette museum in Bowling Green, KY, in February 2014. The museum floor opened up to a sinkhole, swallowing eight classic Corvettes. The sinkhole went down 30 feet and measured 65 feet long by 45 feet wide. *How important is a firm foundation? Have you had the experience building or standing on something that wasn't reliable? Share it with your group.*
3. How does building your life and relationships upon the foundation of Jesus protect you in the storms of life? What things distract us from digging deeper and founding our lives upon the firm foundation of Christ?
4. If you could identify one area of "*shifting sand*" in your life, what would it be? Why does the foolish builder build his house on sand? Which of the following storms in life or in relationships do you think claim the most casualties? *Doubt. Moral failure. Conflict. Crisis. Apathy. Something else?*

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**GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.**

**Previous GPS Guides are available online at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org).**



5. In verse 27, Jesus said that the foolish man's house fell with a great crash. Chances are you know individuals or couples whose lives or relationships could be described in similar terms. Without giving specifics, describe a situation you know about where someone experienced a great crash that could have been avoided if he or she had consistently applied the teachings of Jesus.
6. If, for the past five years, you had applied what you know the scriptures teach about finances, relationships, prayer, obedience (or any other subject), how would things be different in your life or relationships today?

**CHALLENGE:** Take 10 minutes to worship. This song “*Lead Me to the Rock*” echoes today’s lesson. <https://youtu.be/At1UvKXa-E8> Pay attention to the phrase that says, “*You are my firm foundation, my salvation, my solid rock.*”

**SERVE: Pray** over St. Matthew 7:24-27 this week. **Praise God** for the option to build your life and your relationships on a solid foundation. **Listen:** when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become. **Respond.** Write it down, live it out, give Him praise!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org). You can also “find, follow and like” us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/myspbc](http://www.facebook.com/myspbc)) and YouTube ([www.youtube.com/myspbc](http://www.youtube.com/myspbc)). Subscribe to our 7:14 prayers at 855.518.2394. Download our Mobile App from your App Store (myspbc).

**CELEBRATIONS:** Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

**PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER:** Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.



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**NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE.** As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

**FOR PRAYER:**

CALL: 804.463.2472  
EMAIL: [prayer@myspbc.org](mailto:prayer@myspbc.org).

**TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:**

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)  
EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

**TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:**

CALL: 804.643.6177  
EMAIL: [Barnabas@myspbc.org](mailto:Barnabas@myspbc.org).

**TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:**

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: [Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org](mailto:Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org)
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: [Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org](mailto:Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org)
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: [juan.shackelford@myspbc.org](mailto:juan.shackelford@myspbc.org)
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: [lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org](mailto:lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org)
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: [michelle.townsend@myspbc.org](mailto:michelle.townsend@myspbc.org)
- Encore (50-59): Under Prayerful Consideration
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: [maceo.freeman@myspbc.org](mailto:maceo.freeman@myspbc.org)
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: [roscoe.jones@myspbc.org](mailto:roscoe.jones@myspbc.org)

**FOR COUNSELING:**

CALL: 804.643.6177  
EMAIL: [Barnabas@myspbc.org](mailto:Barnabas@myspbc.org)

**TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:**

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)  
EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

**TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:**

CALL: 804.643.4000  
EMAIL: [emergencyassistance@myspbc.org](mailto:emergencyassistance@myspbc.org).



## Small Group Leader Guide

*Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?*

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

### **Leader Tips:**

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

## Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

### **Gathering Time**

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

### **Discussion Time**

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)