

SMALL GROUPS

This week's message brought the Blueprints series to a close by challenging us to move beyond hearing God's word and actually build our lives according to His design. Using Jesus' parable of the two builders from Matthew 7:24-27, we explored what it means to construct a life on a foundation that can withstand any storm.

Key Passage

Matthew 7:24-27 -- Jesus describes two builders who both heard His words but responded differently. One built on rock, one built on sand. Both faced the same storm. Only one house stood.

Key Takeaways

- Everybody is building something, whether they realize it or not. The only question is what you are building and what you are building on.
- The foundation determines what the house can survive. The storm does not create your foundation -- it reveals it.
- Hearing the blueprint is not the same as building it. Knowledge without obedience is not spiritual maturity.
- You do not pour a foundation when the hurricane is coming. Build before the storm arrives.
- Storms do not just test what you built -- they reveal what needs to be rebuilt. It is never too late to start building differently.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever worked on a home project -- renovation, repair, or new construction -- that did not go as planned? What happened and what did you learn from it?

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Everybody Is Building Something

1. The sermon said, "You do not get to decide whether you are building. You only get to decide what you are building and what you are building on." What do you think you are currently building in your life, whether intentionally or unintentionally?
2. Pastor Mack described how life is built through thousands of small decisions rather than a handful of big moments. What small, daily decisions do you think have had the greatest impact on who you are today?
3. Galatians 6:7-9 reminds us that we reap what we sow. If you honestly looked at your habits, calendar, finances, and relationships right now, what do those things say about what you are sowing?

Section 2: The Foundation Determines What the House Can Survive

4. The sermon made clear that both builders faced the same storm. Following Jesus does not exempt us from difficulty. Has there been a time in your life when a storm revealed something about the foundation you were building on -- either its strength or its weakness?
5. Pastor Mack said, "The storm does not create your foundation. It reveals it." How does that statement change the way you think about the hard seasons you have walked through or are walking through right now?
6. He also said, "The most important parts of our spiritual life are often the parts nobody else can see." What are the hidden, private parts of your spiritual life -- prayer, Scripture, integrity, faithfulness -- that you feel strongest in? Where do you feel the most vulnerable?

Section 3: Hearing Is Not the Same as Building

7. James 1:22 warns against being someone who only listens to the word without doing what it says, calling it self-deception. In what areas of your life do you feel like you have the knowledge but have struggled to put it into practice?
8. Pastor Mack said, "Delayed obedience is still disobedience." Is there something God has already spoken to you about -- through Scripture, prayer, or a sermon -- that you have been putting off? What is one step you could take this week?
9. He drew a powerful distinction: "I do not obey Jesus so He will save me. I obey Him because He has saved me." How does understanding obedience as a response to grace rather than a way to earn favor change your motivation to follow God?

Section 4: You Do Not Build a Foundation in the Storm

10. Pastor Mack encouraged the group to build spiritual disciplines, marriages, prayer lives, and community while things are good -- before the storm hits. What disciplines or relationships are you currently investing in during a relatively stable season? What areas have you been neglecting?
11. The story of Jehoshaphat from 2 Chronicles showed that being afraid is not the problem -- the problem is where you run when you are afraid. When you face fear or crisis, what is your first instinct? What would it look like to run toward God the way Jehoshaphat did?

Section 5: Storms Reveal What Needs to Be Rebuilt

12. The sermon offered hope for anyone who feels like they have already built things the wrong way. The pastor said, "Grace does not just forgive what I built wrong. Grace gives me the chance to build again." Is there an area of your life where you need to stop covering the cracks and allow God to do the work of restoration?
13. Psalm 139 invites God to search us and reveal anything in us that needs to change. How comfortable are you with inviting that kind of honest examination from God? What makes it difficult?

Practical Applications

Choose at least one of the following to put into practice before your group meets again.

Build in the quiet. Identify one private spiritual discipline -- prayer, Scripture reading, journaling, fasting -- that you have been inconsistent with. Commit to practicing it every day this week, even if it feels small.

Audit what you are building. Take 15 minutes this week to honestly look at your calendar, your spending, and your closest relationships. Ask yourself: do these reflect the priorities God has designed for my life? Write down what you notice.

Take the next step in obedience. Think of one thing you know God has been asking you to do that you have delayed. Write it down, share it with a trusted person in your group, and take one concrete step toward it this week.

Rebuild something broken. If there is a relationship, habit, or area of your walk with God that has cracked or crumbled, take one step toward rebuilding it. That might mean making a phone call, asking for forgiveness, or simply returning to a practice you walked away from.

Encourage someone who is standing. Think of someone in your life who is going through a storm but is still standing, still faithful, still showing up. Reach out to them this week and tell them you see it.

Closing Reflection

Pastor Mack ended the sermon with this challenge: "Do not just build a life that looks good. Build a life that will last."

Take a few minutes as a group to sit with this question in silence before closing in prayer:

If the storms came tomorrow, what in my life would still be standing?