

# House Rules

## The Ace – Start With God

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### **Matthew 7:24-27 NLT**

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand.”

### **Psalms 127:1-2 NLT**

Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good. It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones.

### **Proverbs 9:10 NLT**

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

God Is the ARCHITECT, not the CONSULTANT

### **Ephesians 1:10-11 NLT**

And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

WISDOM begins with WORSHIP

Trying HARD on my own leads to BURNOUT, not BLESSING

### **Matthew 11:28-30 NLT**

Then Jesus said, “*Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.* Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because *I am humble and gentle* at heart, and you will find *rest for your souls*. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

### **Ephesians 2:19-21 NLT**

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. *You are citizens* along with all of God’s holy people. *You are members of God’s family*. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the *cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself*. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

### **What Happens When God Builds the House?**

1. Families find PEACE
2. Homes become places of BLESSING for OTHERS
3. STORMS can’t take it DOWN

### **Practical Steps:**

1. PRAY before you PLAN
2. DECLARE Joshua 24:14-15 over your home.

### **Joshua 24:14-15 NLT**

“*So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly.* Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. *Serve the Lord alone.* But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the

gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But *as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.*"

## 1. TRUST His BLUEPRINT

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### **Talk About It:** *Small Group*

#### **For Students**

1. What does it mean to "start with God" in school, sports, or friendships?
2. Why do you think the people in Babel wanted to make a name for themselves?
3. How can you tell if something in your life is being built on God's foundation?
4. What's one daily habit that can help you put God first?
5. Who can you ask to help you keep God at the center this year?

#### **For Adults**

1. What's one "tower" you've built in life that didn't have God as the foundation?
  2. Where do you see similarities between our culture and the people of Babel?
  3. Psalm 127:2 talks about rest — how can you embrace God's rest in your home?
  4. In what ways does putting God first feel costly? How have you seen Him reward it?
  5. How can your home become a place that points others to God as the builder?
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### **GOING DEEPER - Bible Study**

This week's study focus: **God as the Builder — From Genesis to Jesus**

Primary Texts: *Psalm 127:1-2, Proverbs 9:10, Genesis 11:1-9, Matthew 7:24-27, Ephesians 2:19-22*

#### **Observation**

- Read Psalm 127:1-2 slowly. What words or phrases stand out?
- What happens if the Lord does not build the house?

- How does verse 2 contrast the world's view of work with God's promise of rest?

### ***Interpretation***

- Compare the motives of Babel's builders in Genesis 11 with the God-centered vision in Psalm 127.
- Why is "Fear of the Lord" described as the foundation in Proverbs 9:10?
- How does Matthew 7:24-27 reinforce Psalm 127's message?

### ***Word Study***

- Builds (banah) — "to establish, to cause to continue." How does this show God's generational view of family?
- Vain (shav) — "empty, worthless, without purpose." How does this sharpen your understanding of building without God?

### ***Connection to the Gospel***

- Read Ephesians 2:19-22. How does being "members of God's household" fulfill the Old Testament truth in Psalm 127?
- What role does Christ as the "cornerstone" play in ensuring the house will stand?

### ***Application***

- Where are you working hard but seeing little lasting fruit? Could it be because God's not at the center?
- What's one way to "hand over the blueprints" to God this week?
- Pray together: "Lord, build this house — our home, our work, our lives — Your way."

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### **REMEMBER:**

**The gospel is the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ... That he died on the cross for our sins and rose again on the 3rd day to defeat sin and death!**

Read - Think - Pray - write down your thoughts... then do something -  
GO BE THE CHURCH!

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