

FOUNDATIONS FOR A FAITHFUL LIFE

Matthew 7:24–27 (NRSV)

“24 Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell and great was its fall!”

Purpose for Tonight

At the beginning of a new year, we are invited to examine what we are truly building our lives on and not in theory, but in practice. Jesus challenges us to move beyond hearing His words to ordering our lives around them.

Group Instructions

Read the passage aloud slowly and allow brief pauses between verses.

Silently Reflect (1 minute) then ask the question:

What am I most intentionally organizing my life around right now?

Discussion

A. Understanding the Passage

- ⇒ What does Jesus identify as the difference between wisdom and foolishness?
- ⇒ What assumptions about faith does this passage challenge?

B. Examining Foundations

- ⇒ What are common foundations people build on besides Christ?
- ⇒ How can good things (success, money, security, comfort) become unstable foundations?

C. Personal Application

- ⇒ Where might Christ be included in your life but not truly foundational?
- ⇒ What is one practice, decision, or shift that would reflect building on Christ this year?

Prepare to Share

As a group, identify one insight, tension, or question to bring to the large-group conversation.

Closing Prayer

Lord, you are our foundation. Reorder our loves, expose what we have trusted more than You, and teach us to build our lives on what lasts. Amen.