

Small Group Guide: Building on the Foundation of Christ

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word, and to help group members hear what He wants to speak to them personally during this time together.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you started something with enthusiasm but didn't finish it. What caused you to stop? (Examples: a hobby, fitness goal, reading plan, etc.)

Key Themes from the Sermon

1. **Salvation is a Starting Point, Not the Finish Line**

- We're called to get out of the starting blocks and run the race
- Many Christians stop at salvation and miss the fullness of what God has for them
- God wants us to experience grace IN salvation, not just grace OF salvation

2. **The Word of God is Living and Active**

- Hebrews 4:12 - The Bible isn't just a history book
- Reading Scripture 4+ times per week can be life-changing
- We should approach the Word with childlike anticipation: "What do you have for me, God?"

3. **Building on Christ Requires Ongoing Commitment**

- Romans 10:9-10 uses present continuous tense: keep confessing, keep believing
- Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ
- We're called to continually add to our foundation

4. **The Holy Spirit Empowers Us**

- The disciples waited for the Spirit before beginning their ministry

- The Spirit gives boldness to speak and act on God's behalf
- Without the Spirit, our Christian life lacks power and passion

Discussion Questions

Getting Personal

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current spiritual momentum? Are you "in the starting blocks" or actively running the race? What evidence supports your answer?

2. The sermon mentioned that reading the Bible 4+ times a week can be transformational. What's your current pattern of engaging with Scripture? What obstacles keep you from reading more consistently?

Going Deeper

3. Pastor Steve said, "We weren't saved to look back at our old life and go, 'I'd really like to do that again.'" What areas of your "old life" do you find yourself still attracted to? Why do you think that is?

4. Romans 10:17 says "faith comes from hearing." When was the last time you clearly heard God speak to you? How did you respond?

5. The sermon emphasized that salvation involves ongoing confession and belief, not just a one-time decision. How does this perspective challenge or confirm your understanding of what it means to be saved?

The Holy Spirit

6. Acts 2 describes the disciples being filled with the Holy Spirit and immediately speaking boldly. Do you feel you have received the Holy Spirit? How would you describe the Spirit's work in your life?

7. Pastor Steve asked, "If you don't ever want to speak about Christ, did you receive the Spirit?" This is a challenging question. How comfortable are you talking about Jesus with others? What holds you back?

Building Your Life

8. The sermon used the metaphor of building blocks on a foundation. What "blocks" (biblical truths, spiritual disciplines, character qualities) have you been adding to your foundation lately? What blocks do you sense God wants you to add next?

9. Pastor Steve mentioned that when the early church encountered new teachings they had missed, they didn't resist—they changed and applied those teachings. Is there a biblical truth you've been resisting or avoiding? What would it look like to embrace it?

Key Takeaways

****Salvation is the beginning of the race, not the finish line****

****The Word of God is alive and should transform us daily****

****True faith is ongoing—we keep confessing, keep believing, keep growing****

****The Holy Spirit empowers us for bold witness and obedient living****

****We should approach God with childlike wonder: "What do you have for me today?"****

****Building on Christ means continually adding biblical truths and practices to our lives****

Practical Applications

****This Week's Challenge:****

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

****Option 1: Word Immersion****

- Read your Bible at least 4 times this week (different days)
- Before each reading, pray: "God, what do You have for me today?"
- Journal one thing God speaks to you each time

****Option 2: Spirit Sensitivity****

- Each morning, pray: "Holy Spirit, fill me afresh today. Give me boldness to speak and act for You."
- Look for one person God puts in your path who needs help or encouragement
- Step out in obedience when you sense the Spirit's prompting

****Option 3: Building Assessment****

- Take inventory: What "blocks" (spiritual disciplines, biblical truths) are currently part of your life?
- Identify one new "block" God is calling you to add (a new spiritual practice, addressing a sin pattern, developing a character quality, etc.)
- Share your commitment with one trusted person for accountability

**Group Accountability:**

- Share which option you're choosing with the group
- Exchange contact information to check in with at least one other person during the week
- Be prepared to share your experience at the next meeting

Personal Reflection Questions

(For individual journaling or silent reflection)

1. If I'm honest with myself, have I been content with just "being saved" without pursuing spiritual growth? Why?
2. What would my life look like if I truly believed God has more for me than

I've experienced so far?

3. Am I more passionate about worldly things (sports teams, hobbies, possessions) than I am about Jesus? What does that reveal about my heart?

4. What is one area where God has been asking me to change, but I've been saying "keep the change—I don't want to change"?

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray for each person in the group regarding:

- Fresh hunger for God's Word
- Boldness from the Holy Spirit
- Willingness to move beyond spiritual complacency
- Specific commitments made during this discussion
- Eyes to see opportunities to serve others in Jesus' name

For Next Week

****Come prepared to share:****

- One thing God spoke to you through His Word this week
- How you responded to the Holy Spirit's prompting
- Progress on your chosen practical application

****Optional Reading:****

Acts 2:1-47 (the full Pentecost account and the early church's response)

Leader Notes

- ****Create a safe space:**** Some may be convicted about spiritual

complacency—ensure the tone is encouraging, not condemning

- ****Watch the time:**** The discussion questions are extensive; select the ones most relevant to your group
- ****Be vulnerable:**** Share your own struggles with spiritual momentum and hearing God's voice
- ****Follow up:**** Contact group members mid-week to encourage them in their commitments
- ****Celebrate stories:**** Make time next week for people to share how God worked through their obedience