

GROUP GUIDE – FORMED BY THE GOSPEL

SESSION 1:5 | BUILT ON THE WORD

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 7:24–27
- James 1:22–25
- 2 Timothy 3:14–17
- John 5:39–40
- John 8:31–32
- Psalm 1:1–3

Big Idea

We build our lives on the Word of God by hearing and obeying just like Jesus did, who trusted God’s Word as the only foundation strong enough to hold for this life.

Ice Breakers (Choose one)

- Who or what shaped the way you think about life the most growing up?
- What does a “stable life” look like according to our culture?

Discussion Questions (As time allows)

1. Matthew 7:24–27— Jesus assumes everyone is building a life. What similarities do you notice between the two builders, and why does that matter?
2. Matthew 7:24 — Why does Jesus define wisdom not by hearing His words, but by doing them? What does that reveal about trust?
3. Matthew 7:25, 27 — Why do both builders experience the same storm? What does this teach us about following Jesus?
4. Matthew 7:26–27 — Why does building on sand often feel stable at first? What makes it dangerous over time?
5. James 1:22–25 — How does James describe the danger of hearing God’s Word without living it? Why does he call this self-deception?

6. 2 Timothy 3:14–17 — According to Paul, what is Scripture meant to shape or produce in a person’s life?
7. John 5:39–40 — How is it possible to know Scripture well and still miss life with Jesus?
8. John 8:31–32 — Why does Jesus connect freedom not just to knowing truth, but to abiding in His word?
9. Psalm 1:1–3; Matthew 7:24–25 – How do seasons of pressure, loss, or difficulty reveal what our lives are actually built on?
10. Matthew 7:24–25; Romans 8:28 – Charles Spurgeon said, *“I’ve learned to kiss the waves that throw me up against the Rock of Ages.”* How does this quote change the way we think about storms and suffering?

Application

Take a moment to reflect: When life gets difficult, what do you instinctively rely on for stability, comfort, or security? This week, choose one concrete way to move from hearing Jesus’ words to living them. This might look like:

Examples

- Trusting His Word over fear or control
- Obeying a teaching you’ve been delaying
- Letting Scripture shape a decision or reaction
- Turning to God’s Word before responding to pressure
- Naming one place where your life is currently built on “sand” and intentionally re-anchoring it to Christ

Jesus, help us build our lives on Your Word. Teach us to trust the Rock that holds, especially when the waves come.

Key Takeaway

Everyone is building their life on something. Jesus invites us to build on His Word, not because storms won’t come, but because His Word is the only foundation that holds when they do. Gospel-formed living means we don’t just hear the words of Jesus, we trust them, live them, and let even the waves drive us deeper into Christ, the Rock.