



July 14
Discussion Guide

The Wise and Foolish Builders

Key Passage: Luke 6:46-49

Opening Thought:

The parable of the wise and foolish builders is familiar to many of us. Jesus uses the imagery of building a house on a firm rock to help us understand the importance of becoming disciples who hear His words. Are you building your life on a foundation of obedience to Jesus or the shifting sand of the wisdom of the world?

Ice Breaker:

Was there a time as a child or teenager when you didn't listen to the wisdom of your parents and later regretted it?

Dig Deeper:

- How have you traditionally interpreted the parable of the wise and foolish builder? Who did the two builders represent?
- It is tempting to build our life in a way that looks impressive to others (what can be seen) but fails to build a good foundation (what can't be seen). What areas of our foundation do we need to invest more time and energy? **Galatians 1:10.**
- Jesus warns us that we can't just listen to his words but must hear and do them. **Read James 1:22-25.** What do you think James means?
- Many of Jesus' words revolve around loving our enemy just as God loves us. Think of who you have a hard time loving. Rather than simply restraining from treating them poorly, how can we pursue them in love, wanting the best for them? **Romans 5:6-8**
- Through his parables, Jesus tells us that when our foundation is built strong we will withstand storms and trials. **Read James 1:2-4 and 1 Peter 1:3-7.** How do these passages make sense in light of this?

Challenge for the Week:

Read **Matthew 5-7** this week (Sermon on the Mount). Spend time assessing how well you are "hearing" the words of Jesus. Prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in any areas you fall short.