



Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

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Alternate Outcomes: Wisdom's Foundation

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SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:21-27

True and False Disciples

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

ENGAGE

What foundation do most people build their lives on here in North America? What are the results of a poor foundation?

DISCUSS

1. Read the Scripture above and have group members share any truths they see in the passage.
2. What do you not like or what do you find troubling about the passage?
3. Billy Graham once said that he felt that 50% of the people in church do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. What are your thoughts about that comment? Do you agree or disagree? Would you say it is more or less than 50%? What should the church do about this troubling issue?

4. Why do you think the Bible describes the way to heaven as narrow?
5. How can we know that we have a relationship with Christ and will go to heaven when we die?
6. 1 John 5:13 says, "These things have I written that you may know that you have eternal life." What is your reaction to that verse?
7. Some signs of a weak foundation are an insincere confession or knowledge without relationship. Have you ever experienced either of these in your life? What changed?
8. Have you seen the life of a believer face many storms in life? What difference do you see in the life of a sincere believer and one who may not be, or may be an immature believer?
9. True believers walk with God, listen to His voice and learn from His word. How would you say you are doing in these three measurements?

YOUR NEXT STEP

This week evaluate your life and your relationship with Christ. Is anything different in your life because of Christ? Do you remember when you gave your life to Christ? Is there anything more important to you today than Christ?

Maybe you need to repent, or maybe you need a sincere relationship with Christ. This issue is so important that you need to be sure, as 1 John 5:13 says.

CHILDREN'S TIME

1. Read the passage and ask the children to tell what they learned.
2. Will everyone go to heaven? If not, who gets to go to heaven? What must we do to go to heaven?
3. The Bible tells us that we can know for sure whether we're going to heaven. Read 1 John 5:13. Tell the children it's so important that they need to know. Encourage them to talk with their parents about it, or if the children are old enough, lead them to pray for salvation.
4. True believers walk with God, listen to His voice and learn from His word. How can we listen to God's voice and learn from His word?

OTHER PASSAGES SITED

Matthew 10:32-33 whoever acknowledges me before men...

Luke 13:24 strive to enter through the narrow door