



Life Group Lesson

Lesson #1

After a 15 month hiatus, we finally had a chance to re-gather again as we once did back at Marshall in the gym this past week. Though we are physically together as we once were, we also want to step into new ways of engaging and encountering the Lord. Pastor John told us this past week that the person we were in the Lord in 2020 needs to be strengthened in order for us to be who we need to be for the world of 2025.

One of the key ways that we know we need to strengthen is our ability to encounter God individually and corporately. Encountering God is the foundation for living a flourishing life in the 2020s. In these upcoming weeks, we will be offering a few lessons that you can use over the course of this sermon series that will allow you to enter in more deeply by giving you exercises and tools to give to your group so they can grow in their encounter with the Lord.

Looking Back

FAMILY TIME (20 min)

- Vision Statement: Have a group member explain the vision of your lifegroup. Invite another group member to share your vision piece next time.
- Intro Question: What ways do you like to connect with God?
- Prayer Requests, Praise Reports and Updates from previous week(s).

Look Up

WORSHIP (30 min)

- During this season, we want to spend more time engaging in God's presence. If you have somebody who can lead, we encourage you to invite them in to lead. If you'd like to use Youtube, here are a few longer sets (choose 2 or 3) that have more space for spontaneous worship that will give you space to engage with God's heart.
 - Shout to the Lord + Spontaneous (14 min) -
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiTj4kcRyA>



- Alleluia + Spontaneous (14 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnG0jsSBiGw>
- So Will I (11 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rT4ABF19oEw>

**Encourage your group members to engage God's heart for one another during worship and share any affirmations or words of encouragement they receive with each other as Holy Spirit leads. One strategic way to do this on Zoom is through the private message function while worship is ongoing.

Bible Study: Passage - 1 Corinthians 3:10-14 (NIV)

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Questions:

- *What's something that stands out to you?*
- *What do we learn about God?*
- *What do we learn about people?*
- *Ask the Lord, what foundations have you been building your life on? Is there something that is not going to last? If so, how might the Lord be asking you to lay those down?*
- *Is there something the Lord is inviting you in this season to strengthen your foundations, particularly in encountering Him more?*

Looking Forward

- 1) One way to begin encountering God is by focusing on who God is. As we read in scripture about who He is, we can allow His character to get deeper into our lives by praying and declaring out loud who He is. As a group, take some



time to pray out of Revelation 1:4-8. Read it aloud together, and then invite members of your group to focus on one or two characteristics that the scripture points to, and then pray it out.

You can set the example by praying first:

"Jesus, you are the faithful witness. Thank you for the ways that you have been faithful to me and have witnessed to me of your kindness and goodness. Help me to know this part of your heart even more."

- 2) Close your time by breaking into smaller groups to share more deeply your answers to the 4th and 5th questions above from the Discovery Bible Study, and to pray for one another to go deeper into God's heart.

Kids Lesson

Before you read today's passage we want to encourage you to quiet your mind and heart and ask the Lord to help you as you read His words:

Matthew 7:24-27 [ICB]: 24 *"Everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them is like a wise man. The wise man built his house on rock. 25 It rained hard and the water rose. The winds blew and hit that house. But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock. 26 But the person who hears the things I teach and does not obey them is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on sand. 27 It rained hard, the water rose, and the winds blew and hit that house. And the house fell with a big crash."*

1. From this passage how does one person become a wise man?
2. From this passage how does one person become a foolish man?
3. What happened to the wise man's house when the storm came?
4. What happened to the foolish man's house when the storm came?
5. What kind of house would you like to build for yourself?
6. What must you do to build a house like the wise man?

God's desire is for us to withstand the storms that come our way. He doesn't keep it a secret on how to do this but gives us open instructions on how we could build a strong house. We simply need to hear His words, believe in them and follow them fully with our hearts leaned on the loving Father who spoke these words to His children.