



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Wise and Foolish Builders

Staying in Luke chapter 6, we listened to Jesus' voice as he instructed his followers to build their lives on the solid foundation. The best news of all? Everyone who comes to Jesus, hears his words, and does them is like a wise man who built on solid rock. May you stand firm in Jesus this week!

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

---

### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: LUKE 6.46-49 (NIV)

*"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"<sup>47</sup> As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like.<sup>48</sup> They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.<sup>49</sup> But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."*

- It's an all-too-real image for many people who have experienced flooding even in recent days. Will our homes withstand torrential downpours? We spend much of our time not worrying about the foundation of our lives—until something happens that causes us to think about how deeply our lives are anchored. Jesus says, *Dig down deep. Lay your foundation on rock. And you will be able to stand secure.* **How do you evaluate the depths of your foundation in Jesus? What practices help you to dig deeply into your faith?**
- *Jesus, you are the firm foundation that I want my life to be built upon. Expose the places where I'm putting trust in shifting sands that I might dig more deeply into the Word of God. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: HEBREWS 6.13-20 (NIV)

*When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,<sup>14</sup> saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.”<sup>15</sup> And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.*

*<sup>16</sup> People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. <sup>17</sup> Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. <sup>18</sup> God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. <sup>19</sup> We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.*

- As much as we admire the faith of Abraham, it is the promises of God that give us confidence. And all of God’s promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Therefore our souls are not destined to float around without direction or purpose—we have an anchor that grounds us. In fact, the hope that anchors us also draws us deeper into the very presence of God (as represented by the inner sanctuary in verse 19). A person going into that part of the temple would have entered with great fear because it was the most holy place on earth—like looking into the face of God. In Christ, we are invited into the presence of God with confidence! **Are there times when you question if your life is anchored at all? When are you most aware that your hope in Jesus is the anchor for your life?**
- *God, I don’t want to be anchored to anything else but You and the hope I have in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 3.9-15 (NIV)

*For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.*

*<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

- The Apostle Paul has been accused of being a bit full of himself at times. But this passage reveals that his confidence and legacy are built on Jesus. In his work of spreading the Gospel and building up the church, he ensured that the church’s foundation would not be him or anything that he did. It was Jesus himself. Throughout the course of history, great movements have been built by those with the best, most valuable resources. Lesser movements have been built on weaker foundations and they fall quickly. But no movement has outlasted the church. If (as Paul writes) you are a part of God’s building, you must remain on the foundation of Jesus. **In what ways are you tempted to build your life on a foundation of things other than Jesus Christ?**
- *God of grace, thank you for the many blessings that you have filled my life with. Let me lean on you today. Jesus is my firm foundation! Amen.*

## THURSDAY: ISAIAH 33.2-6 (NIV)

*LORD, be gracious to us;  
we long for you.*

*Be our strength every morning,  
our salvation in time of distress.*

<sup>3</sup> *At the uproar of your army, the peoples flee;  
when you rise up, the nations scatter.*

<sup>4</sup> *Your plunder, O nations, is harvested as by young locusts;  
like a swarm of locusts people pounce on it.*

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high;  
he will fill Zion with his justice and righteousness.*

<sup>6</sup> *He will be the sure foundation for your times,  
a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge;  
the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.*

- God Himself has come as King. He reigns over all the earth, and the things we build up that are apart from him will be eaten up like locusts. (Anyone seen the swarms of cicadas?!) God is the sure foundation in every time and place. **In what way is each line in this passage true for you? (i.e. *We long for you. You are my strength every morning.*)**
- *Lord God, you are the One who can make nations scatter. Fill this land with justice and righteousness. You are the sure foundation for our time! Amen.*

## FRIDAY: PHILIPPIANS 4.8 (NIV)

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

- We set our minds and practices on all kinds of things. The 35,000 little and big decisions we make every day reveal a lot about us. So Paul says that we should make sure that our minds are set on lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy things. We then strive to put those good things into practice in the world around us. The result? The peace of God will be with us. What a promise! **What helps you to keep your mind on what is true, noble, right and pure?**
- *God, direct my attention beyond the many distractions of this world. Allow me to see beyond them, and to focus on the excellent things you are doing today. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: PSALM 127 (NIV)

*Unless the LORD builds the house,  
the builders labor in vain.*

*Unless the LORD watches over the city,  
the guards stand watch in vain.*

<sup>2</sup> *In vain you rise early  
and stay up late,  
toiling for food to eat—  
for he grants sleep to those he loves.*

<sup>3</sup> Children are a heritage from the LORD,  
offspring a reward from him.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hands of a warrior  
are children born in one's youth.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is the man  
whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame  
when they contend with their opponents in court.

- Solomon was known as the great builder of the temple. Here he recognizes that all of that work—the acquisition of the finest materials known to humankind, the labor of thousands of men and women—was for nothing if God Himself was not the ultimate builder of the house. Beyond material things, our families are “a heritage” from the Lord. **When you consider your life right now, where can you see God's handiwork on display?**
- *Lord, I know that you are building the life that I claim. Anything good comes from you. Thank you for standing guard over my life. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob broke down these words of Jesus from Luke 6.47. Consider how each segment applies to your life and the world today.

- Everyone
  - Make a list of all kinds of people who would be included when Jesus says, “Everyone”.
- Everyone who comes to me
  - What are some of the different ways that people come to Jesus?
- Everyone who comes to me and hears my words
  - How do you hear Jesus' voice? How might his words become audible to others?
- Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them
  - What can cause a disconnect between hearing and doing the words of Jesus? What are the possible outcomes of doing one and not the other?