



STUDY GUIDE

January 31, 2021

Message Series:

Reconstruct

Message Title:

Solid Rock Foundation

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

### Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Describe something you have built that didn't turn out the way you had planned **and/or** describe a situation where you faced a scary weather-related storm.

### Pray:

Dear Lord, we praise you for who You are and trust You in all things. Help us to completely surrender ourselves to You and continue to build upon Your truths so that we can be confident in our faith having staying power. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Get Started:

"Hearing isn't enough and having knowledge isn't enough - we have to Build. 'Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house...' This means that Jesus' words should actually lead to a change in the way we live our lives. It's not enough to know how...you have to actually do something with it. We hear Jesus' words. We think about them and therefore gain the knowledge of what we must do or what we must stop doing. Then we have to act. We have to build the house based on what we know... There is a choice - not against the storm coming, because the storms of life come to us all. The choice then, is whether or not I will build my life in such a way that the house will stand - that my faith and my life will have staying power no matter what. Or a faith that falls apart because the house is built on something else - on the unstable ground of sinking sand."

**-Pastor Brian Hughes**

- Describe a storm in your life. What did the Lord teach you through it that shored up your faith and trust in Him?

### Watch and Discuss Video (16 min.)

Read **Matthew 7:21-23** and **1 Corinthians 3:10-11**.

- What are some things you believe that give you confidence your faith is built on the rock and will not fall?

### **5 Categories of Scripture to Understand the Teachings of Jesus**

- 1) Prophecy of Jesus through the Old Testament
- 2) Nature and Character of Jesus through Scripture and Genealogy
- 3) Jesus' Actions and Decisions
- 4) Direct Interaction with People
- 5) Direct Teachings of Jesus

## Read Genesis 1:26-27 and Isaiah 9:6-7.

- How do these texts have a direct application to your life? How are these texts related to Jesus?
- In accordance with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7, How are you going to improve the way you "hear these words of mine and put them into practice"?
- How do you view these categories of scripture above? Do you lean into one or two kinds and tend to not give us much attention to other categories? What adjustments do you need to make to elevate the importance of some categories that you may tend to avoid?

## Reflect and Commit:

"Your faith doesn't have staying power if you don't **do** something with the teachings of Jesus. Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice. which implies that you have a choice: you can practice them or not. You can dig in, chew on, pray over, talk about, ponder and think and develop application and then put Jesus' teachings into practice...or you can just hear and move on. In one ear and out the other. This is the difference between believing in theory, in an abstract way, and believing in such a way as to consider how a teaching should affect our lives... The teachings of Jesus are life-changing. And we ought to think on each of them, asking, how can I put this teaching into practice in my life?" -**Pastor Brian Hughes**

Think for a moment about some of the teachings of Jesus that you know listed below. How are you putting these teachings into practice in your life?

- Jesus said that we couldn't help someone get the splinter out of their eye until we took the plank out of our own eye. (**Matthew 7:34-35**) How are you really living that teaching out?
- He said that it's time to harvest the lives of people who are hungry for God, but that there weren't enough workers to make it happen. (**Matthew 9:35-38**) How are we applying that teaching to our lives?
- He called himself the vine and us the branches, and that if we remained in Him, we'd bear much fruit. (**John 15:1-17**) How are we going to put that teaching into practice in our lives?

**Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same." -Luke 10:37b**

## Pray:

Dear Lord, we need You to help us to be wise and build a solid rock foundation of faith. It's only with You that we can withstand storms that come our way. Help us to deeply internalize and follow Your teachings. We don't want to just hear Your Words, we want to actually put them into practice, daily. Thank you that You, Jesus, are our very foundation upon which we live and it's in Your name we pray. Amen.