

THE
FOUNDATIONS
AT JUMNS
BOOK

**The
Foundations
Book**

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Foundations
Book**

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The Foundations Book

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HERE'S WHY WE DEVELOPED THIS RESOURCE:

1. FOLLOWERS OF JESUS OBEY HIM.

- In Matthew 7:24, Jesus said the wise person builds their life not just by hearing His words, but actually putting them into practice.
- Culture says: “Live your truth. Follow your heart.”
Jesus says, “Follow me.”

2. FOLLOWERS OF JESUS READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE.

- The Bible can be intimidating but the best way to learn is to have someone help you.
- In each chapter of this book, you have multiple opportunities to read and write down passages of Scripture for yourself.

3. FOLLOWERS OF JESUS REALIZE IT'S LESS ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW AND MORE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE BECOMING.

- You will find several opportunities to apply and live out the concepts you are learning in practical ways.
- We do not do spiritual things in order to earn God's love. But when you understand how much God loves you, you want to live in a way that honors and pleases Him.

4. FOLLOWERS OF JESUS LEARN AND SHARE WITH OTHERS.

- It has often been said that the best way to learn something yourself is to teach it to someone else.

Hopefully, this will not be a book you flip through once and then set on a shelf. We designed it to meet an important need. As a pastor who has worked closely with people from all different backgrounds for more than three decades, I believe people want to grow in their relationship with God ... but they don't know how.

This resource was designed to help fill that gap. My prayer is that God will use it to initiate meaningful and dynamic conversations with family members, friends, co-workers, and the people you care about most.

You can go through the book yourself, with another person, or in a small group. Once you're finished, I believe you will discover its value and gain the confidence to invite someone else to experience it too.

I am so excited for you to go on this journey, and I'm trusting God will use it to draw you closer to Him and to every person who joins you along the way.

JEFF LITTLE

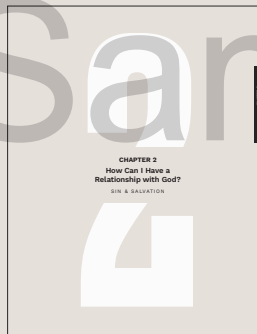
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JL', written in a cursive style.

THE LAYOUT

EACH CHAPTER FOLLOWS A PATTERN:

- The important, fundamental question
- Bible verses to look up and write down
- The concept
- The passage
- Application to your everyday life
- Reflection and discussion questions

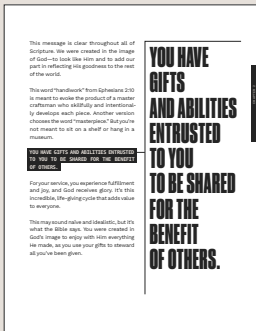
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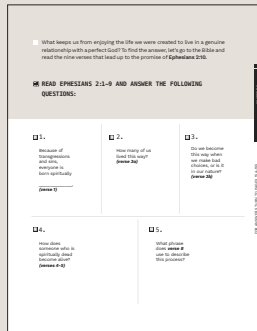
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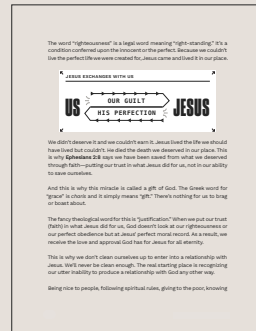
BIBLE VERSES



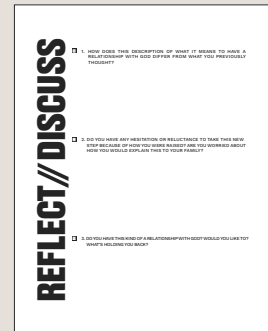
THE CONCEPT



THE PASSAGE



APPLICATION



REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE PLAN

*Write down
thoughts or
questions as
you're reading!*

READ AND INTERACT WITH THE CONCEPTS.

You'll get the most out of this journey if you look up the verses in your Bible, answer the questions, underline key concepts, and write down thoughts or questions as you're reading.

TALK ABOUT IT.

This book is designed for relationships more than individual study. From the beginning, followers of Jesus have gathered with another person or in small groups to study and consider His message.

PASS IT ON.

Once you finish this book, the best way to grow deeper in your understanding is to take someone else through the process you just completed.

CHAPTER

1 WHAT AM I BUILDING MY LIFE ON?

2 HOW CAN I HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

3 HOW DO I CHANGE AND BEGIN MY NEW LIFE IN CHRIST?

4 WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM ME?

5 HOW DO I HEAR FROM GOD?

6 HOW CAN I EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE EVERY DAY?

7 WHERE HAS GOD PLACED ME?

8 HOW DOES GOD THINK ABOUT MONEY?

9 WHY IS THE CHURCH IMPORTANT?

10 WHAT DO I DO NOW?

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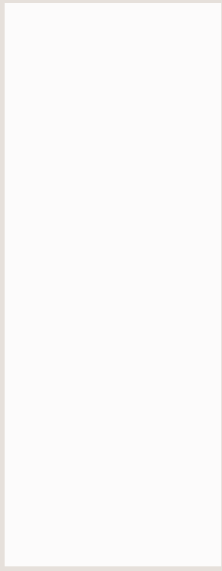


CHAPTER 1

**What Am I Building
My Life On?**

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INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW



☰ WRITE JOHN 17:3.

☰ WRITE 1 CORINTHIANS 3:11.

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We only get one chance at life. So we want to make the most of it. We want to experience the absolute best that life has to offer.

In our world, we have more options and more information about what everyone else is doing than any previous generation. It's no wonder we're all a little anxious and worried about missing out.

Have you ever considered,

“WHAT AM I BUILDING MY LIFE ON?”

THIS IS A FOUNDATIONAL QUESTION.

We need a plan, a guide that helps us understand what really matters so we can make the right choices. Without a plan, we are left to live from choice to choice, hoping things work out. Unfortunately, this is where too many of us end up. Twenty-five-hundred years ago, the philosopher Socrates famously said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.”

We all build on something—and the foundation you choose determines the life you live.

WHAT IF THERE WAS A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN?

WHAT IF GOD HIMSELF HAD A PLAN UNIQUELY DESIGNED JUST FOR YOU?

WOULD YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT WAS?

WOULD YOU ASK FOR HELP TO DISCOVER IT?

In **John 17**, Jesus is moments away from being arrested. In less than 24 hours, He'll be beaten and die the most excruciating death imaginable on a cross along a busy road. Before this happens, Jesus prays and asks God for help. In this prayer, He gives us an insight into what really matters in life.

When Jesus says in **John 17:3**, “Now, this is eternal life...” He is speaking about more than the quantity of life—a life that never ends. He's talking about the quality of life—the life we were created to live.

The life we were all created to live is built on the foundation of knowing God and Jesus Christ, the One God sent to be with us. This is the life that is truly life. Jesus came to make this abundant life available to any of us who would receive Him.

This is more than knowing information about Him. It means to know and

be known, to walk with Him, to trust Him when we don't understand, and to see the reality of His presence in every area of our lives.

A man named Paul experienced this firsthand. He went from persecuting those who followed Jesus to developing a genuine, personal relationship with Him. And God used him to help establish the early church. Through great opposition, danger, and supernatural outcomes, Paul planted churches, trained leaders, and preached the message of Jesus throughout the Roman Empire. His letters to churches make up a large percentage of the New Testament.

In his first letter to the church located in the first-century city of Corinth, Paul is frustrated because the people are being foolish. They're fighting with each other over foolish personal preferences. They're building on a foolish plan. They have the wrong foundation.

Paul says that it was by God's grace that he laid a foundation like a skilled master builder. In **1 Corinthians 3:11**, Paul tells us that there's only one foundation for a wise person to build on: Jesus Christ.

**THE LIFE WE
WERE ALL
CREATED TO
LIVE IS BUILT
ON THE
FOUNDATION
OF KNOWING
GOD AND
JESUS CHRIST.**

THAT IS THE SIMPLE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BUILD YOUR LIFE ON JESUS?

HOW DOES THAT WORK?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE BUILD THIS WAY?


This was not a theory for the disciples, for Paul, or for the earliest followers of Jesus. They were not following spiritual traditions or the moral obligations of a religious belief system. They built their lives on a personal relationship with Jesus. And not only did it change them, but it also changed their families, their neighborhoods, their cities, and eventually the whole world.



The mission of God, His Kingdom, and His Church are all advancing through the earth today because of the foundation of Jesus Christ. And He offers this same hope to you and me today.

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THE MISSION OF GOD,
HIS KINGDOM, AND
**HIS CHURCH ARE ALL
ADVANCING THROUGH THE
EARTH TODAY BECAUSE
OF THE FOUNDATION OF
JESUS CHRIST.**

 **READ MATTHEW 7:24–29 AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

 Questions and Answers throughout this book are based on the  NIV translation of the Bible. If you are reading a different version of the Bible, simply write your answers based on your reading.

 **1.**

In **verse 24**, Jesus says, “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice . . .” What’s the difference between “hearing” and “putting into practice”?

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 **2.**

What happens to the house in **verse 25**? Why?

☰ 3.

What metaphor does Jesus use to describe someone who hears His words but doesn't do them?
(verse 26)

☰ 4.

What happens to the foolish builder's house?
(verse 27)

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☰ 5.

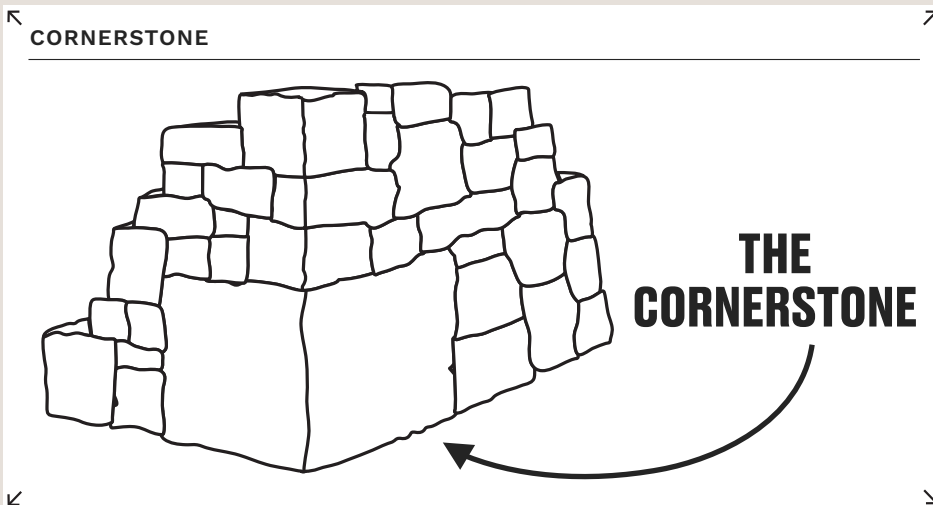
How did the crowds respond to Jesus' teaching? Why did they react this way?
(verses 28-29)

Jesus' teaching on the wise and foolish builders is among His most well-known. Maybe you've heard it before. But when you think about it, it's bold. It's aggressive. It's a long way from "Follow your heart" or "Do what makes you happy."

Consider for a moment the basic premise. The question is not, "Will we face rain, floods, or winds?" Whatever words we choose to use, the meaning remains the same. Every single person will face challenging circumstances. You could say all of us are in one of three places at any given time in our lives: **(1)** in a storm, **(2)** coming out of a storm, or **(3)** headed for a storm.

The question is, "**What foundation are you building on?**" Because ultimately, building your own kingdom can't hold up to the floods and challenges of life, and it will leave you insecure, anxious, and hopeless in your own strength.

Anytime people in the ancient world thought about buildings and foundations, they thought about the concept of a "cornerstone." In architecture, particularly with stone, the cornerstone is the most vital piece of the foundation. Not only does it fasten and secure the foundation, but it sets the alignment of the entire structure.



Every other stone fits into its place based on its relationship with the cornerstone. Until it's secure, nothing else can be built. **Psalm 118** is a song about God's goodness and how He offers salvation, and in verse 22 it says, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." It's a prophetic picture of how God offers Jesus as the foundation. In **Isaiah 28:16**, God says He lays a precious cornerstone and the one who relies on it will never panic.

God wants you to build your life on Jesus. He has a plan for everything you care about in life. But without Jesus as the cornerstone, when the storms come, everything will come crashing down.

How are you building? Whether we acknowledge it or not, we all have a cornerstone. It could be your career, family, finances, or yourself and your own plans. While these things are good, and God has a purpose for them all, they ultimately can be shaken and washed away—that's what Jesus is telling us in **Matthew 7**.

**WE NEED
SOMETHING
ETERNAL TO
PLACE OUR
TRUST IN AND
BUILD OUR
LIVES UPON.**

We need something eternal to place our trust in and build our lives upon. Jesus offers Himself as the chief cornerstone of our lives. The question is, "Will you not only hear Jesus' words, but will you also *do* them?"

Remember, it's not about what you know or don't know. Jesus is after your heart. Will you trust Him? Will you say yes and keep taking steps to follow Him?

You can do it and this journey is designed to help you get there.

REFLECT//DISCUSS

☰ 1. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS TO BUILD YOUR LIFE ON JESUS?

☰ 2. AFTER READING THIS CHAPTER, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOU'VE BEEN BUILDING YOUR LIFE ON UP TO THIS POINT? HOW IS THAT DIFFERENT FROM BUILDING YOUR LIFE ON JESUS?

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- 3. DO YOU TRUST JESUS WITH EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE? ARE THERE ANY AREAS WHERE YOU ARE HOLDING BACK? EXPLAIN.

- 4. AS YOU START GOING THROUGH *THE FOUNDATIONS BOOK*, WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET OUT OF IT?

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