

Small Group Notes: 19 July 2026

Theme: Build on the Rock!

Reading: Matthew 7:24-29

1. Connecting:

- Share a moment when you had to make a tough decision. What helped you choose wisely?
- Have you ever built or created something that needed a strong foundation?

Focus: Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount with a vivid picture: two builders, two foundations, and two very different outcomes.

2. Two Builders, Two Choices (vv. 24–25)

Key Idea: The wise person *hears* Jesus' words **and puts them into practice**.

Discussion:

- What does it look like to “hear and do” Jesus' words in everyday life?
- Why is obedience to Jesus' words often more difficult to follow, than simply finding a solution to a situation based on our own understanding?
- What storms (pressure, temptation, stress, conflict) test your foundation right now?

Focus: A life built on Jesus' teaching stands firm when life gets rough.

3. The Danger of a Weak Foundation (vv. 26–27)

Key Idea: The foolish person hears Jesus' words but **does nothing** with them.

Discussion:

- What are common “sand foundations” people build on today (success, approval, comfort, money, power)?
- How do these foundations fail when storms come?
- Where might you be tempted to rely on something other than Jesus?

Reflection: Write down one area of your life where you need to rebuild on Christ's truth.

4. The Authority of Jesus (vv. 28–29)

Key Idea: The crowds were amazed because Jesus taught with **authority**, not like the religious teachers.

Discussion:

- What does it mean that Jesus speaks with authority?
- How does recognizing Jesus' authority change the way we respond to His teaching?
- How do you respond to worldly authority, when it conflicts with the authority of Jesus? Which authority do you follow?
- Where do you need to submit to His authority this week?

Reflection: Jesus doesn't just give advice—He speaks as Lord. His words are the foundation for life.

5. Group Application

Challenge: Choose one teaching of Jesus listed below from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew Ch's 5–7) and commit to practicing it intentionally this week.

Examples:

- Forgiving someone
- Loving an enemy
- Praying sincerely
- Seeking God first
- Letting your "yes" be yes

6. Closing Prayer

"Lord Jesus, help us not only hear Your words but build our lives on them. Strengthen our foundations and teach us to trust Your authority in every part of our lives."

Amen

Have a blessed week,

Tim.