

Sunday Evening Home Worship Guide

Open with prayer for God's wisdom to be given.

The whole of the Sermon on the Mount calls us to real kingdom citizenship. Living the life to which Jesus calls involves both hearing and doing (7:24). Jesus' story about the two house builders is about the kind of corporate community and individual life that endures and prospers even in a storm of resistance to Jesus' will for our lives. Hearing and doing the words of Jesus means building life that will stand whatever may come. Life is tested as to its authenticity, both in everyday experiences and in the judgment yet to come. Hearing and doing is hearing and doing in relationship to a person. The "mine" in "hears these word of mine and acts on them" (7:24) points to this relationship. The community's life is Jesus' way of life. This is not bondage; it is not a new legalistic bondage. The way of Jesus frees his community of faithful doers of his words from bondage to a life of illusion and releases them to authentic living. They together become the "city built on a hill" (5:14), standing securely, like the house built on a rock, showing the way.

Read Matthew 7:24 – 29.

Questions for Worship together: How does building on a rock apply to an individual? To the church? What specific things can you change or do daily to build yourself and the church upon a rock?

Close with prayer in thanksgiving to God.