

A. SOLID ROCK

- We began our study of God's Word by examining the nature of it as revealed in Scripture. It is living, active, sharp, precise, exposing, discerning and nourishing!
- The basic truths of the Gospel provide the starting point for our relationship with the Lord. We want to be alert for anywhere we have stopped short of heart knowledge.
- Engaging deeply with all that Jesus has done for us will cause us to grow into mature faith and develop our relationships with Him.
- These truths are our spiritual food and they provide a strong foundation for our lives: Matt 7:24-27 NLT--Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.
- This passage uses a house as a metaphor for our lives. Jesus is stressing the importance of making the Living and Active Word the basis upon which we build.
- He promises that building your life on God and His Word will shape you into a person of wisdom and stability: Mt 7:24 MSG--If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock.
- Insights:

B. SHAPE

- The cornerstone sets the course for every other stone in the building. It is defined as "something of great importance that everything else depends on." (Cambridge Dictionary)
- Christ Himself is the Solid Rock, the Cornerstone: Is 28:16 NLT--Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken
- If the Word isn't our foundation and Jesus our Cornerstone, we build on the shifting sand of lies (even if unaware of it):
 - Is 28:15 NLT-- We have built a strong refuge made of lies and deception
 - Col 2:8 NAS--See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
- Jesus used stories and took OT Scriptures to teach us how to build on heartfelt truth. His warning about building upon solid rock is at the end of the Sermon on the Mount.

- In that sermon, He showed how the Word is intended to bring heart transformation vs. behavior modification only. For example, We're to go beyond "Do not murder" and keep our hearts free of anger and offense. (Mt 5:21ff)
- Jesus demonstrated many examples of what it would look like to truly follow God's Word. He ended by saying we'd grow to be more like God Himself: Mt 5:48 AMP--You, therefore, will be perfect [growing into spiritual maturity both in mind and character, actively integrating godly values into your daily life], as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- Living out this call to follow Jesus and apply His Word to our lives is impossible unless we are completely relying on Him: John 15:5 AMP--Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Lord, we want to examine how our lives are shaping up. Where are they out of balance or out of alignment with Your Word?

In the area(s) that need to be reshaped by listening to and practicing God's Word, show us specific ways we have:

- *Allowed something or someone else set the pattern for our lives*
- *Built upon some other foundation*
- *Been deceived by lies or half-truths*

- Insights:

C. STABILITY

- Jesus promises that we will remain stable if we make Him our Cornerstone. (Mt 7:25)
- But if we build our lives upon anything other than the foundation of Christ and His Word we find that it won't stand up to the pressures of life. (Mt 7:27)
- Notice that, either way, we will encounter storms and winds of change in this world. And we'll all be tested and refined by the Lord at times: Heb 12:26-27 ESV-- He has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.
- Wherever hidden lies have found a place in our lives, that area will crumble and fail when storms or shaking come: Is 28:17 NLT--I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness. Since your refuge is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, a flood will sweep it away.
- The Lord loves us enough to expose the flimsy lies that are unstable and that compromise our ability to stand firm when circumstances are demanding.
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
What types of situations consistently leave you shaky or feeling insecure? Are they ones that involve kids, finances, comparison, health issues, or something else?

Ask the Lord to uncover the unstable beliefs that need to be replaced by His truth:

Please help me take time to get steady with what God says vs. the way I feel.

- Let's learn to rely wholly on our precious and tested Cornerstone. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, He will never let us down: Ps 46:1-5 NAS-- God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;³ Though its waters roar *and* foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. *Selah.*⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling places of the Most High.⁵ God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved
- Insights:

D. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- **ONE THING**

The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- **PONDER THE TRUTH**

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- **PROCESSING THE TRUTH**

Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He his calling you to take. Write down your insights.

E.