

BUILT TO LAST

RADIANT CHURCH



INTRODUCTION

PASTORS GREG & CONNIE

Our hearts are full seeing you live in biblical community. God has created us to live in relationship with Him and His people. We are never supposed to live life alone.

We are excited about this new series called “Built to Last”; a series about relationships. Whether you are married or single, God’s word will strengthen and enrich every relationship you have when we put His word into action within our lives.

We challenge you during the next 5 weeks and after, to drink deeply from God’s word, to encourage each other and to never give up but instead, fight the fight, finish the course and keep the faith until the day of our Lord returns for each of us.

Please let us know how to serve you and your families best as we all own our faith in a life changing way!

Much Love,

Greg & Connie

Pastors Greg & Connie



OUTLINE OF EACH SESSION

A TYPICAL GROUP SESSION FOR THE BUILT TO LAST STUDY WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS. READ THROUGH THIS TO GET A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW EACH GROUP MEETING WILL BE STRUCTURED:

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSES

Each session opens with a Memory Verse that emphasizes an important truth from the session. This is an optional exercise, but we believe memorizing scripture is a powerful way to grow spiritually. We encourage you to give this important habit a try. The verses for each session are also listed in the appendix.

INTRODUCTION

Each lesson opens with a brief thought that will help you prepare for the session and get you thinking about that week's topic. Make it a practice to read these before the session. You may want to have the group read them aloud.

SHARE YOUR STORY

The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and His family. You build that connection by sharing your story with a few people who really know you and who earn your trust. This section includes some simple questions to get you talking—letting you share as much or as little of your story as you choose.

HEAR GOD'S STORY

In this section, you'll read the Bible and listen to teaching in order to hear God's story—and begin to see how His story aligns with yours. When the study directs you to, you'll watch a short teaching segment on video. You'll then have an opportunity to read a passage of scripture and discuss both the teaching and the text. The goal isn't to accumulate information, but to apply the insights from scripture to your daily life.

CREATE A NEW STORY

In this section, you'll have an opportunity to go beyond Bible study to biblical living. This section will also have a question or two that will challenge you to live out your faith by serving others, sharing your faith, or worshiping God.

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

If you have time and want to dig deeper into more Bible passages about the topic, we've provided additional passages and questions. You can use them during the meeting or as homework. Your group may choose to read and prepare before each meeting in order to cover more biblical material. Or, group members can use the additional study section during the week after the meeting. If you prefer not to do study homework, this section will provide you with plenty to discuss within the group. These options allow individuals or the whole group to expand their study while still accommodating those who can't do homework or are new to your group.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Each week on the Daily Devotions pages, we provide scriptures to reflect on between sessions. This provides you with a chance to slow down, read just a small portion of scripture each day, and pray through it. You'll then have a chance to journal your response to what you've read. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don't get in a hurry; take enough time to hear from God and talk to Him!





SESSION 1

THE PLAN

THE LORD GOD SAID, "IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE MAN TO BE ALONE. I WILL MAKE A HELPER SUITABLE FOR HIM."

GENESIS 2:18

We serve a God who is in constant relationship with the Son and the Spirit. He created us to be in relationship with Him and with the people around us, and He even created the marriage relationship as a special blessing. Because God is so relational, the Bible is full of instructions, commands, and wisdom about how to love, serve, forgive, and grow in relationships. As we kick off this series, let's consider what His word can teach us about building good relationships – with God, with our families, and with the other people in our lives.



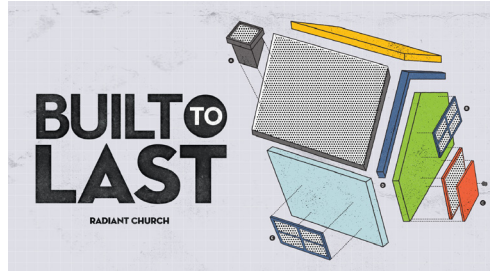
SHARE YOUR STORY

Begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking.

1. What brought you here? What do you hope to get out of this group?

2. What relationship principles did you learn from your family as you grew up?

WATCH THE VIDEO



Use the Notes space provided below to record your thoughts and questions as well as the things you want to remember or follow up on. After watching the video, have someone read the discussion questions in the Hear God’s Story section and start the conversation.



HEAR GOD'S STORY

READ MATTHEW 7:3-5

³“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.



1. Why is it so much easier to focus on the faults of others?

2. What bugs you about other people? Do you tend to struggle in the same areas?

3. How can we remove the planks from our own eyes?



CREATE A NEW STORY

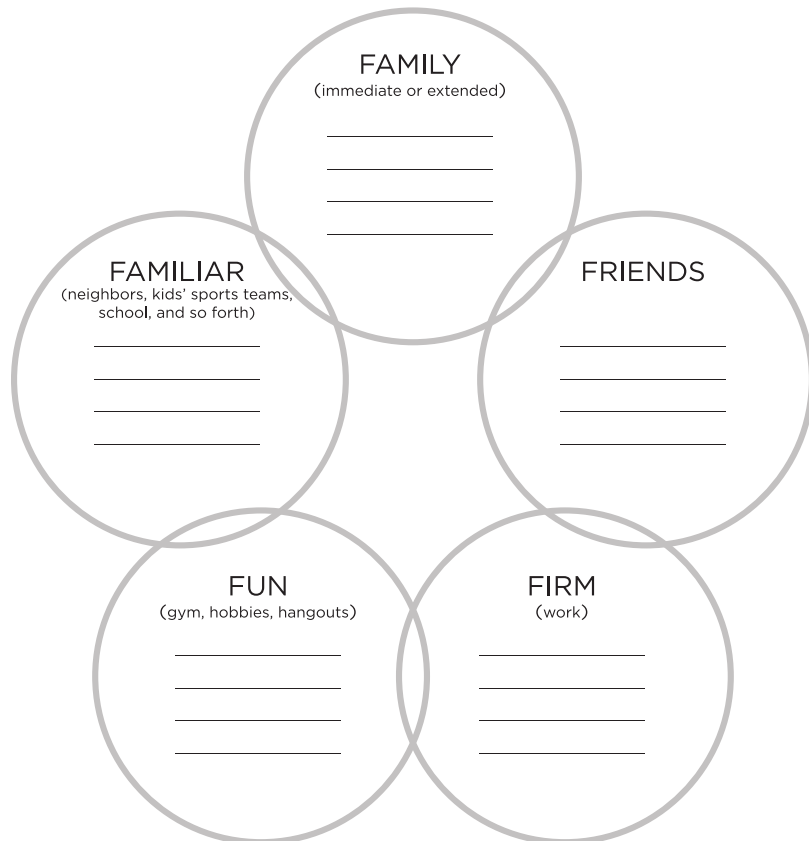
In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.

1. What does it mean to seek God's kingdom and righteousness above everything else? What promise do we receive if we refocus our lives this way?

2. How do relationship challenges help us become more like Jesus?

3. What is one action step you want to take this week because of what you've learned today?

Take a look at the Circles of Life diagram below and write the names of two or three people you know who need to know Christ. Commit to praying for God's guidance and an opportunity to share with each of them. Would they be open to joining the group? Share your lists with the group so you can all be praying for the people you've identified.



4. This week how will you interact with the Bible? Can you commit to spending time in the Daily Devotions? Tell the group how you plan to follow Jesus this week, and then, at your next meeting, talk about your progress and challenges.

Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.



CLOSE YOUR MEETING WITH PRAYER.

Thank God for the people in your group. Pray for each person, that they would be open to Jesus in a new way through this study. Also, pray for new people you could invite to join your group next week.

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

Take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into God's Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own. Jot down your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. You may even want to use a Bible website or app to look up commentary on these passages. If you like, share what you learn with the group the next time you meet.

READ GENESIS 2:18-25

1. Why wasn't it good for Adam to be alone?

2. In Hebrew, a helper or "ezer" is not someone subordinate to the one helped; in fact, God is called an "ezer" in Psalm 10. How does this influence your understanding of this passage?

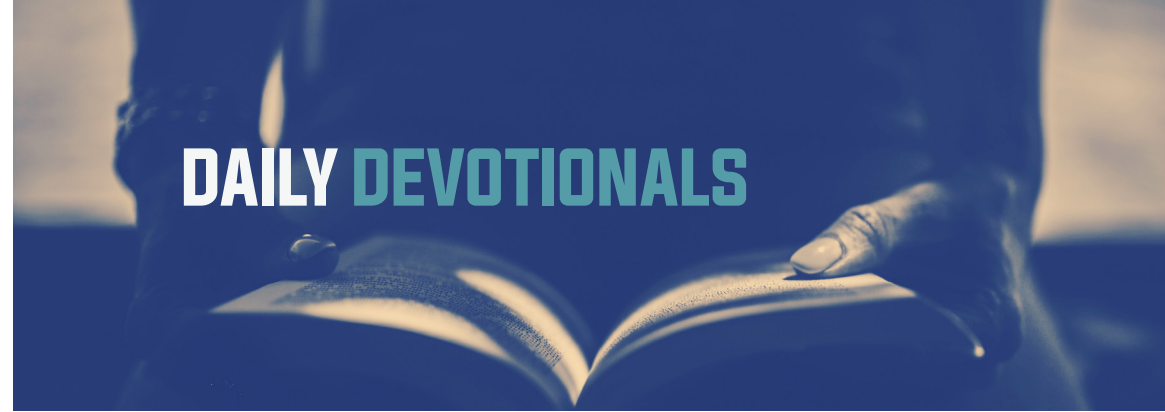
3. What do these verses teach us about the marriage relationship?

READ ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

- 1. A saying from the Talmud, the Jewish scriptures, says, "A man without companions is like the left hand without the right." Similarly, these verses extol the benefits of partnership with someone else. How does this passage apply to marriage?

- 2. How does this passage reinforce the idea of God creating us to help each other?

- 3. Who or what is the third strand in verse 12?



DAY 1 • READ JOHN 13:15

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Reflect: Think of some ways Jesus modeled love for others in His relationships— and ask Him to help you grow in those areas.

DAY 2 • READ PROVERBS 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Reflect: What does it mean to "sharpen" another person? Who plays this role in your life?

DAY 3 • READ JAMES 4:6

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

Reflect: Many of the issues in our relationships stem from pride. Ask God for help in humbly admitting your part in these problems, and accept His forgiveness and grace!

DAY 4 • READ PHILIPPIANS 2:3 (NLT)

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

Reflect: Are there ways you are trying to impress other people? How does that limit developing authentic relationships with them?

DAY 5 • READ MATTHEW 7:7

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

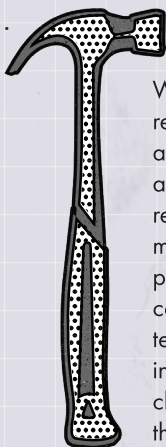
Reflect: What are you asking for or seeking from God? Spend a few minutes today bringing these requests before Him.

DAY 6

Use the following space to reflect on what you learned this week and what God is saying to you

“Build friendships & marriages on the solid ground of His word.”

HOME sweet HOME



Whether we're single or married, young or old, we all have relationships that matter to us. In *Built to Last*, Pastor Greg and a team from Radiant Church share biblical teaching and practical insights that can help you develop healthy relationships with God and with others, build friendships and marriages on the solid ground of His word, manage conflict, pursue intimacy, and live with love. This five-week series combines video teaching from Pastor Greg, stories and testimonies from dozens of Radiant Church members, and an in-depth study guide to take your small group or Bible study class to the next level in growing and enjoying relationships that are built to last.

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