

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

USING THIS WORKBOOK

TOOLS TO HELP YOU HAVE A GREAT LIFE GROUP EXPERIENCE!

1. Notice in the Table of Contents there are three sections: (1) Sessions; (2) Appendices; and (3) Life Group Leaders. Familiarize yourself with the Appendices. Some of them will be used in the sessions themselves.
2. If you are leading or co-leading a Life Group, the section Life Group Leaders will give you tips for effective leadership, encourage you, and help you avoid a few common obstacles.
3. Use this workbook as a guide, not a straitjacket. If the group responds to the lesson in an unexpected but honest way, go with that. If you think of a better question than the next one in the lesson, ask it. Take to heart the insights included in the Frequently Asked Questions pages and the Life Group Leaders section.
4. Enjoy your Life Group experience.
5. Pray before each session—for your group members, for your time together, for wisdom and insights.
6. Read the Outline for Each Session on the next pages so you understand how the sessions will flow.

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 3

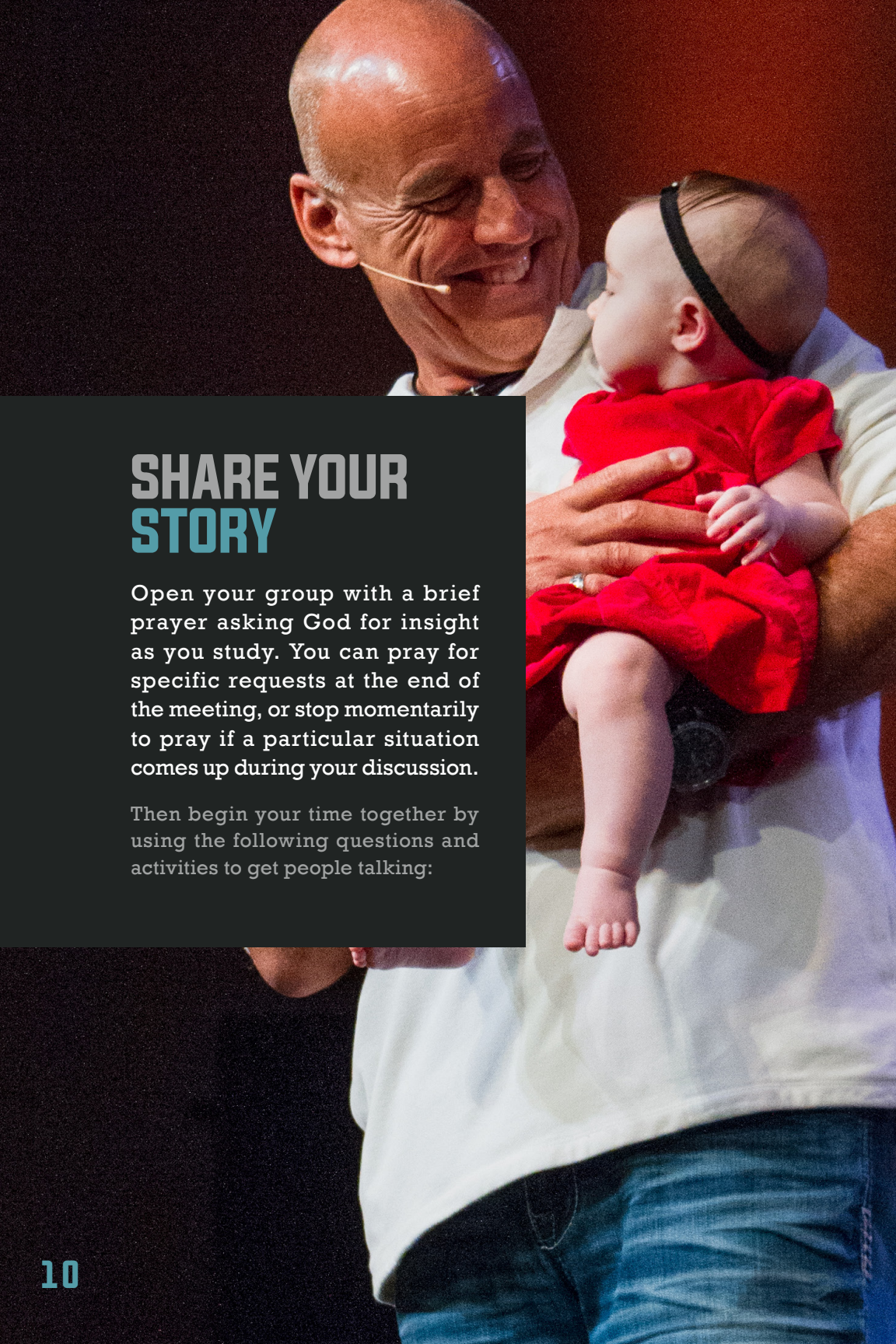
THE FOUNDATION

BY WISDOM A HOUSE IS BUILT, AND THROUGH
UNDERSTANDING IT IS ESTABLISHED;
PROVERBS 24:3

It took four years to build the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, 14 years to construct Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, 23 years to create Buckingham Palace in London, and 144 years to create St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

Interestingly, it took almost 200 years to finish the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy. The designer of the building died long before it was completed and generations of workers labored to make it a masterpiece. However, despite their centuries of hard work, the tower leans today because it was built on soft ground that can't support its weight.

It takes time to develop beautiful buildings and it takes time to build strong relationships, but neither one will be strong unless they're anchored on solid ground. Today we'll look at what it means for Jesus to be our foundation and how we can build relationships that will last.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Open your group with a brief prayer asking God for insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting, or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking:

1. What is your longest relationship? This might be a brother or sister, your spouse, or a friend from childhood.

2. What did you learn from your Daily Devotions this past week?

3. In the last session we asked you to write some names in the Circles of Life diagram. Who did you identify as the people in your life who need to meet Jesus? Go back to the Circles of Life diagram on page 22 to help you think of various people you come in contact with on a regular basis; people who need to know Jesus more deeply. Consider ideas for action and make a plan to follow through on one of them this week.

HEAR GOD'S STORY

READ MATTHEW 7:24-27

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”



1. What are some of the storms of life that can threaten our relationships?

2. Is it enough simply to know what God says? What else is required?

3. What are some ways you are building your relationships on the rock of God's Word? What are some ways you are building on sand?



CREATE A NEW STORY

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Scripture 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 submit?

2. Why is it so important to build relationships on a strong foundation?

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

Here are some simple ways to connect with God. Tell the group which ones you plan to try this week, and talk about your progress and challenges when you meet next time.

PRAYER

Commit to personal prayer and daily connection with God. You may find it helpful to write your prayers in a journal.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

The Daily Devotions provided in each session offer an opportunity to read a short Bible passage five days a week during the course of our study. Take time to read carefully and reflect on the passage. Write down your insights about what you read each day. Copy a portion of scripture on a card and tape it somewhere in your line of sight, such as your car's dashboard or the bathroom mirror. Or text it to yourself! Think about it when you sit at red lights or while you're eating a meal. Reflect on what God is saying to you through these words. On the sixth day summarize what God has shown you throughout the week.

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 EPHESIANS 5:29-33

1. What does it mean to be members of Christ's body? How does He care for us as His body?

2. How does this analogy illustrate the mutual submission of marriage?

3. Why are husbands called to love their wives? Why are women called to respect their husbands?

READ EPHESIANS 4:11-16

4. Why are we equipped to serve others?

5. What is the result of our work to build the body of Christ?

6. How do verses 15 and 16 reinforce the idea of Christians as Christ's body? What do we learn about building our relationships?



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

DAY 1 • PROVERBS 24:3

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established;

Reflect: Ask God to give you increased wisdom and understanding as you build your relationships!

DAY 2 • READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:11

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Reflect: What are some reasons we can trust Jesus as the foundation for our lives? For our relationships?

DAY 3 • READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Reflect: Who are some people you could be more intentional about encouraging? Who are the people who consistently encourage you?

DAY 4 • READ EPHESIANS 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Reflect: Today, pause before everything you say. Is it useful for building up someone else? Is it going to benefit others?

DAY 5 • READ ROMANS 15:5-6

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

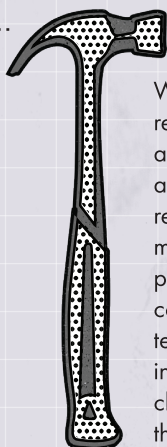
Reflect: What a powerful prayer! Ask God for his strength to treat others with His attitude and bring glory to Him.

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.

