

PURSUE RELATIONALLY

To kick things off, have each person in your group answer the following: Tell us if you've ever had a near-death experience.

LIVE AUTHENTICALLY

We've all had different experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and all that's come with it. Before we go any further, take some time to see how everyone in your group is doing.

What are three words you would use to describe how you've felt during this pandemic and all that has come with it? Why did you pick those words? Have you found yourself feeling anxious about the coming weeks?

Take some time to pray as a group for everyone who has been impacted by this pandemic.

- Pray for healing for those who are sick.
- Pray for strength for their families
- Pray for wisdom for the officials and leaders who are working to keep us safe.

COUNSEL BIBLICALLY

[Read Matthew 7:24-29](#)

Why do you think we picked this passage to be our theme for our At Home Faith series? What do you think it means to build your house on the sand? What does it mean to build your house on the rock?

In the midst of everything going on, what is one practical way you can "build your house on the rock" this week?

This week Josh delivered a message calling us to practice following Jesus during our 167 hours in the middle of this storm. The heartbeat of our church is to be the church, not just go to church. Just because we are not meeting in the walls of the church building does not mean our faith stops. If anything, our faith should be ignited. God has been preparing this within us since the moment Josh said, "we do not just go to church, we are the church". At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus likens obeying His words to building your home on a solid foundation. In the illustration, two homes are built and both houses experience storms, but only one is strong enough to withstand the wind. When we build our house on the rock it doesn't mean storms won't come. Instead, it means we will be ready to withstand the winds, because of the connection we have with God! Let's review the four ways Josh encouraged us to build our house on a strong foundation:

Prayer: Prayer is powerful, and we all need it, especially during this time, so take the prayer time at the end of Lifegroup seriously today. ["Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."](#) (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Word: God's word is foundational to our walk with Him. It is how we grow in our knowledge of Him and understand His will for our life. ["Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."](#) (John 15:5).



Worship: You don't need a church service to worship. You can sing in your car, in your house, or wherever you are. Worship is a weapon, so turn on your favorite song this week and worship. "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him." (Romans 12:1).

People: No matter what happens, it's essential that we have people walking with us during this time. "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." (Hebrews 10:25).

Talk: Which of the four is your favorite way to connect with God? Which one is the most challenging for you? What scriptures would you use to counsel biblically for someone who is doing well with their favorite way to connect with God, and not doing well in their least favorite? (Review the verses used above).

DEVOTE DAILY

Read Joshua 1:1-9

What pattern did you notice in this passage?

Joshua 1 is the moment Moses passes away, and Joshua takes his place as the leader of the Israelites. There is a very noticeable pattern to this passage. In nine short verses, God tells Joshua to be "strong and courageous" three times.

Joshua is facing a terrifying challenge. In his first few weeks of leadership, God is asking him to bring the people into the long-awaited promised land, but several trials are standing in the way. So how can Joshua continue to be strong and courageous in the midst of such a challenging time?

Verse 8 tells us, "Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." (Joshua 1:8).

Pray: As a group, spend some time praying for the things you discussed above. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely. This week we have an opportunity to be a non-anxious, constant presence in the lives of those around us. Meditating on Scripture day and night is the secret to living without fear. Let's practice that this week by completing the Take-Home Assignment below.

TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT

Every minute of the day is important, but there is something special about the first two minutes when you wake up and the final two minutes before you fall asleep. This week, put aside those minutes (and two more in the afternoon) to meditate on Scripture. Check in with your Lifegroup this week and hold each other accountable to meditating on scripture for 2 minutes in the morning, afternoon and evening.

Morning: Take two minutes to meditate on this passage when you wake up and prepare to be a peaceful presence for those around you.

Joshua 1:9 "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



LIFEWAY LIT E

Afternoon: Take two minutes to meditate on this passage at some point when you feel yourself getting overwhelmed.

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

Evening: Take two minutes to meditate on this passage right before you go to bed.

Acts 27:22-26 "But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. But we will be shipwrecked on an island."

As Paul tells the 276 men that were aboard the ship with him, it is not a question of if the storm will hit, but when. If you are not currently in a storm in your life, one is on the horizon. But just like Paul, your ability to be a constant to yourself and to others in the storm is tied to who God says you are: a child of God.

Pray: That God would give you the strength to be constant in any current or coming storm in your life and to remind you of your security in Him.

ENGAGE MISSIONALLY

This week you can lead the change in your life and in the lives of the people around you by being a constant, just like Paul, in the midst of the storms of life. He was a constant because of whose he was. You can be that constant for others around you this week because of whose you are.

Acts 27:25 "So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said."

