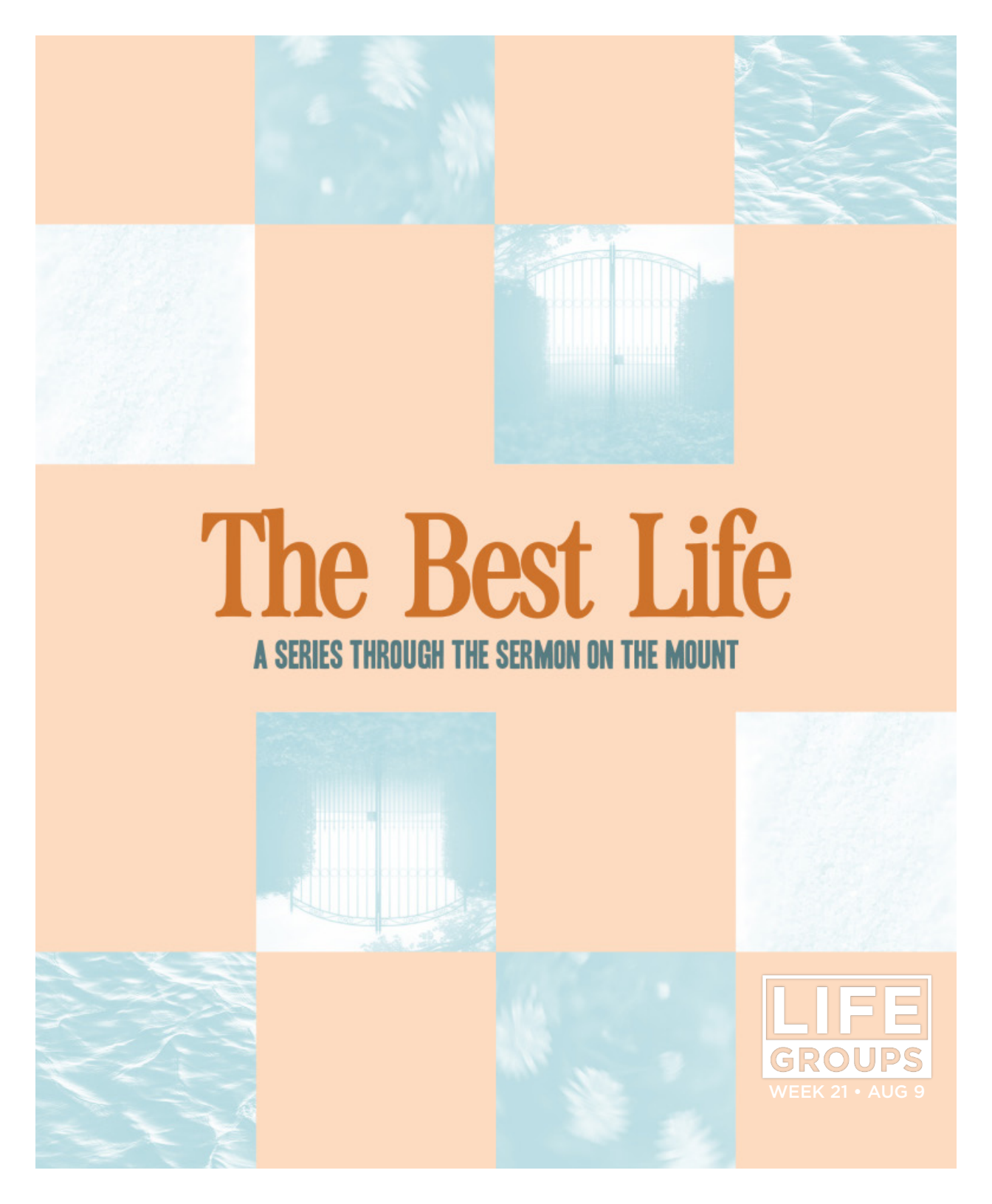




The Best Life

A SERIES THROUGH THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 21 • AUG 9

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Think of a time you or someone you know built something — a project, a relationship, a plan — without a solid foundation. What happened when things got difficult or went wrong?

BACKGROUND

Matthew 7:24-29 stands at the very end of the Sermon on the Mount, the most famous and comprehensive body of teaching Jesus ever delivered. Beginning in Matthew 5, Jesus had been instructing His disciples — and the crowds gathered on the hillside — about the nature of the kingdom of heaven, true righteousness, prayer, trust in God, and the narrow way of authentic discipleship. This final parable is His capstone: a direct challenge to everyone who has heard His words to decide what they will do with them.

The parable contrasts two builders. The wise man hears Jesus' words and acts on them building his house on rock. When the storms come, the house stands firm. The foolish man also hears the same words but does not act and his house is built on sand, and when the storms arrive, it collapses completely. The imagery would have been immediately familiar to a Jewish audience. In the Judean hills, dry riverbeds look like safe ground in summer but become violent torrents in the rainy season, sweeping away anything not anchored to bedrock.

Jesus is not drawing a contrast between believers and unbelievers. He is drawing a contrast between hearers and doers among those who have already received His teaching. The storms in the parable are not hypothetical, they are inevitable. The only variable is whether the foundation will hold. The passage closes with the crowd's astonishment: Jesus taught not as the scribes, who quoted other authorities, but with His own divine authority. This authority is itself the bedrock He calls His listeners to build upon.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Matthew 7:24

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

READ: Matthew 7:24-29



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. What is the key difference between the wise builder and the foolish builder?
2. In Matthew 7:24, Jesus says the wise man hears “these words of mine” and does them. What specific teachings from Matthew 5–7 do you think Jesus most wants His listeners to put into practice?
3. Both the wise and foolish builders in the parable experienced the same storm. What does this tell us about Jesus’ view of suffering and hardship in the Christian life? Does Jesus promise His followers a storm-free life, or something else?

DEEPER DISCOVERY:

- Luke 6:46-49 (parallel account)
- James 1:22-25
- 1 Corinthians 3:10-11



Heart Level: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God’s word.*

1. The foolish builder is not described as someone who rejected Jesus’ words. Is there an area of your life right now where you know what God’s Word says, but you have not yet built your life on it? What is holding you back?
2. The crowd was astonished at Jesus’ authority (v. 29). When did you last feel genuinely astonished by something Jesus said — not merely familiar with it, but struck by its weight? What stands between you and that kind of wonder today?
3. In Luke’s version of this parable (Luke 6:48), the wise man “dug deep” before laying his foundation. Deep foundations require effort, patience, and unseen work. How does this image speak of the cost of discipleship? Are you willing to do the unseen, unglamorous work of rooting your life in Christ?



HANDS LEVEL: *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What specific area of your daily life (speech, finances, relationships, etc.) needs to shift from hearing to doing Jesus' words this week?
2. Who in your life needs to hear this call to build on the rock? How will you share and apply it together?



MEMORY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 3:11

"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)