LESSON 4, DEVOTION 1

"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. THE 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." - MATTHEW 7:24-2

What storms have you weathered in your life? Not real storms, but "life-stuff" storms. Like your parent's divorce, the death of a loved one, dealing with a disease. These types of storms.

Have you been through a lot? Or have you been spared so far? Because here's the thing: no one goes through life with zero tough times. Tragedy and trials affect us all.

The question is then, "How do you deal with them"?

Jesus gives us a huge glimpse into how our faith can help us when things get rough. But the key is that to make it through the storms, you have to put the foundation in place long before the wind picks up. And that's where faith comes in.

An active faith is one that believes God's Word, and puts it to work in your life. Think of the guy that built his house on a rock. God's Word was believed. And when life's storms came, his house withstood it. Why? Because His faith was rooted in God's Word. And God's Word was the foundation of His life.

Storms will come. Maybe they already have. Faith in God and reliance on His Word is the key to weathering the storms.

LESSON 4, DEVOTION 2

Here's a quote to think about as you go through your day. Read it and look at the prompts below to help guide your thoughts.

"Even those of us who have weak faith have the same strong Christ as others!"

– Sinclair Ferguson

Think About This…

- How does this quote encourage you when faith seems hard?
- What does this quote say about our role in our faith?
- What does it say about Jesus' role?

LESSON 4, DEVOTION 3

"But 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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." – Matthew 7:26-27

This devotion is going to be pretty straightforward. Ready?

Don't be the guy who built his house on the sand.

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It's kind of heartbreaking when you think about it. This guy heard God's Word. He had a chance to believe and to act on his belief. But he didn't. He let the words of God go in one ear and out the other. In a sense, he laid a faulty foundation. And when the storms of life came, it all crashed down.

You get to hear God's Word, too. You can read the Bible. You can know God. But if you never allow God to change you, to truly own your life, then what have you really done? In truth, not a lot.

If your faith isn't where it needs to be, do something about it. Pray to God. Read the Bible. Talk to an adult. Talk to a friend. Open yourself up to the idea that God is amazing and life-changing. Give Him a chance to prove it's true.

Don't be the person who's left looking at a crumpled house when life's storms hit.

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