

2:52

Session One BUILT To Last

01. INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to session one of the 2:52 Student Discipleship Program. You have gotten past the biggest hurdle you will have and that is to just get started. That's what personal growth is all about. I would say after following Jesus for 25 years now, **99% of success is showing up**, taking a step in the right direction and then repeating...

- **You showed up!** and I believe over the next couple of months you are going to grow in every way closer to God, closer to others and closer to God's purpose for your life.
- **Get somewhere Quiet** – pull out your study guide and really try and focus on our time together. Be sure to follow along as we move through the study guide write down any questions or thoughts you have. This will help you reflect later and guide follow up conversations with the student team!

The purpose of our time together and the reason we created this discipleship course is to help you grow and mature. Many people see personal growth as a moment:

- It's never been easier to look over the fence at everyone else. **Social media is full of highlight reels.** It shows the best of the moment but never the whole process.
- Looking at it we can start comparing our real life, full of problems, struggles and little wins to another's highlight reel.

- **Comparison will rob you of happiness in the process.**

That's what 252 is all about, help you grow and walking you through a process of becoming who God created you to be!

Even Jesus, the son of God, didn't get out of this idea of process...

Luke 2:52

52 Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

Even perfect Jesus to get where God wanted Him to go, his purpose and destiny, had to go through a process of growth. So do you and so do I. That's what 2:52 is all about, helping you grow in wisdom and stature, favor with God and man!

02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

As we kickoff with session one of the 252 Student Discipleship Course, we are going to talk about Building. **What do you think is the most important part of a building?**

Illustration: I've built a lot of things and grew up my dad was a builder. There were so many mistakes he could fix relatively easily except one. This one flaw, this one mistake would prove to cost the most and almost impossible to correct without tearing it all down. **That's The**

FOUNDATION:

- Most of us go in and out of buildings, drive on roads and never even see the foundations that hold it all up, but without them, nothing in our life could stand the tests of time... nothing

It is the most important thing and that's what we're going to start with... in this session called BUILT TO LAST.

03. MESSAGE

Modern world and how they view the past. They cast it aside, we have iPhones today and technology. **While it's true our world is more technologically, materially advanced than ever before, We still struggle with the same stuff.** Look around the world, depression, anxiety, fear, injustice, murder, lying, cheating. For all our stuff, progress we haven't progressed much.

- Sure traditions change over time, laws may need to be updated or re-written but the **foundation** by which our world is held together doesn't change. **Why? Because we didn't create ourselves or the world we live in, God did.** This is where we are going to start, with God.

Proverbs 9:10

Fear of the LORD is the **foundation** of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

Building our lives on God's values rather than the world's values is like building a house on rock versus on sand: one is solid and sturdy, one is wavering and leads to downfall. **I don't know about you, but I want to be BUILT to Last.**

Context: This idea of foundation is clearly seen throughout scripture and Jesus talks about it on several occasions. This is Jesus' first sermon. They say you are known by your first book, it's your life story.

Jesus told this parable in his very first sermon to emphasize how important it is. This is the parable of the wise and foolish building and we are going to learn at some principles we learn in a message called **BUILT TO LAST**

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. 25 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. 26 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. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

What do we learn from this parable... [Here's the first thing:](#)

1. You are building something. You and I are. Everyone is building something, the idea is [what and how](#).

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

2. The rain pours on everyone.

John 16:33

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Maybe you're starting 2:52 and you're a middle schooler, and you're thinking: “My life hasn't been all that bad. My parents are together, I haven't had a very difficult life so far.” This verse is saying we're all going

to face storms. The storms of life test you and how you've built.

3. The difference is the foundation.

Matthew 7:25

25 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.

Illustration: Foundation is serious. Home inspections. Better to knock down and start over. The foundation determines three things:

The Foundation Determines Three Things:

- a. How high you can grow.
- b. How far you can go.
- c. How much you can handle.

So what's the meaning of this parable, it is saying that:

4. The foundation is the Bible. God's Word. Lots of things you can put your trust in but they won't withstand the tests and storms of life... but **God's word will always work no matter what.**

Matthew 24:35 Jesus tells us that:

Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

In other words, this book is timeless – like God, all-powerful – Like God and All knowledgeable – like God. **The Bible is more than a history book or a library of ancient text:** it serves as the foundation for us as Christians. The Bible is your answer, because it has the mind of God. Get that and you will succeed, your foundation will stand the storms of life.

Why is the Bible such a strong foundation... It is because it is God's story of rescue, His plan and purpose... simply put:

5. The Bible is the message about Jesus.

From cover to cover, Old Testament to New Testament, One Story – God’s plan in Jesus. Jesus is God’s Word, God’s Word is Jesus:

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Truth that’s a loaded word today... Did you know even if you don’t believe in truth, it is still truth. Reality will hit you whether you believe it exists or not. **Don’t believe in gravity and jump, reality will hit you, it’s called the ground.** So that begs the question, what is truth. Jesus tells us when He is praying for his disciples:

John 17: 14-17 I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

The truth is that much of what we think, feel and believe isn’t based on the **foundation of the truth, the Bible.**

- It’s based on what we see on [Tik Tok](#), [Instagram](#), [T.V. shows](#), and [Hollywood movies](#). It’s what we hear from friends at school and on our sports teams.
- We’re going to shift for a moment, and I want to talk about The Bible and why it’s so valuable and is the best foundation for your life.

Here’s what the Bible says:

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways... As the heavens are **higher** than the earth, so are my ways **higher** than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Where do you learn more about how God thinks and what He thinks about you? **The Bible.**

Illustration: Bible Overhead - Idea of height and perspective.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness ...

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by making the Bible the foundation of your life.

Why is the Bible the best foundation?

If you're taking notes, get ready to fill in the blanks, I want to talk give you some **Facts About The Bible:**

1. The Bible is trustworthy.

Written by nearly 40 authors (kings, priests, farmers, lawyers, tax collectors, fisherman, etc) over 1500 years, in three languages on three continents. The entire Bible has been translated into **531 different languages** – portions of it in **3,000 different languages**.

Not only is the Bible the best-selling book every year, **it's the best-selling book of all-time.** Nothing else is even close. But that's not all – the printing press was created to make the Bible. The Bible isn't a great book – modern forms of books exist only because of the Bible. **It's living**

and active.

The Bible changes our perspective – worldview – unchallenged assumptions about life. The two biggest challenges most people face when engaging the Bible:

"I don't understand."

Understand – the Bible is one big story that shows us who God is. That's why we're here to understand. God gave the Bible to ordinary people. It is simple.

"I don't have time."

Time – we all have the same time and we make time for what matters most. Church and small group.

The Bible is "God-breathed" – that means He speaks it. Who wouldn't want a red phone, direct line to God? If we really believe this is what the Bible is, why don't we value it more?

2. The Bible is transformational.

Most people think the purpose of reading the Bible is to get information, but that's not the main goal. The problem with this approach is it makes the goal learning knowledge.

You don't read the Bible. It reads you. Our hearts should say "don't just teach me... change me"

James 1:22-25

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But

whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and **continues in it**—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Not just propositional truth – relational truth. Not just, “That’s true!” but “That’s true FOR me!”

3. The Bible is a powerful.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

It’s sharper than any two-edged sword... Sometimes you don’t know the right way to go, because of your family or origin, experiences and the lies of the enemy, the Bible is the key to knowing God’s will for your life and being **BUILT to Last.**

The Bible’s real value as a weapon is internal. The battle is primarily fought in your heart and your mind. The Bible helps you take thoughts captive (**2 Cor 10:5**) renew your mind (**Rom 12:1**) – attack toxic attitudes/thoughts/behaviors, and extinguish the fiery darts of the enemy (**Ephesians 6:16-17**)

04. CLOSING & PRAYER

The Bible is more than a history book or a library of ancient text: it’s a foundation for us as Christians. It’s a weapon that we can use to defuse the lies of the enemy. The Bible is the difference between being built to fall, or being **BUILT to Last.**

Let me pray

That wraps up session one, be sure to return your study guide and pick up the session two study guide, next session we are talking about how to win the FIGHT FOR YOUR MIND! See you then!