



Week Two

Opening Praying

God, we trust that you are here with us today. Help us to hear from you; soften our hearts to your leadership and presence. Amen.

Talk It Over

Throughout this series we are looking to encounter God in a new and fresh way through the Bible. The goal is to encounter Jesus by using the Bible as a helpful tool. The Bible is important by all means, but we are not trying to make an idol out of the Bible.

- Have you been engaging in the 40 Days In the Word reading plan? If so, tell us what that experience has been like for you. If not, tell us what is holding you back.
- What possible dangers can come from prioritizing the Bible or Biblical knowledge over Jesus?

Read Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT)

Everyone builds a life on something. Jesus instructs us to build our life on him and his teachings.

Take a couple minutes to honestly consider the following idea and questions:

We can often tell what we are building our life on by looking at our priorities. By looking at our goals, where we spend our money, and how we spend our time, we can often quickly see our priorities. Be sure to not simply look at your goals, where you spend money or how you use your time, but rather consider what those choices represent.

- What have you been building your life on? Why did you choose to build on that foundation?
- Are you satisfied, pleased, at peace, proud of the foundation you've built on thus far?
- In what ways have you actively chosen to build your life on Jesus?
- Is there any fear or shame tied to the idea of building your life on Jesus?

When your group is ready, share what came up during this time of reflection. Allow the group to simply share about their time or feel free to go question by question as a group.

This week we looked at four ways we can actively try to build our life on Jesus:

1. **Hear God's word.**
Read Romans 10:17 (New Living Translation)
2. **Read God's word.**
Read Psalm 119:105 (New Century Version)

(Continued on next page.)

3. Study God's word.

Joshua 1:8 (New Living Translation)

4. Act on God's word.

Read James 1:22-25 (New Living Translation)

To get all we can out of the Bible, it's imperative we understand the reason we listen, read, and study is to act and apply. We invited to engage with the Bible in hopes of encountering Jesus and living the life he has for us. Information is only good if it leads to the sort of sincere application that produces transformation. In other words, the point is not about knowing the Bible, it's knowing the God of the Bible.

Looking at the four categories above that help us build our life on Jesus — to hear, read, study, and act on God's words — consider these questions:

- Do you know someone who does these four things well? What good do you see coming from this?
- Of all the categories above, which category is your strong point? Which is your weak point?
- God gives us lamps for now, not floodgates for the future.
 - In what ways do you struggle with this idea?
 - In what ways have you grown in this area?
 - In what ways do you want to grow more in this area?
- Ultimately, God is trying to do something in us.
 - Is there anything you feel God is trying to do in your this season?
 - In what ways has the Bible helped you change as a person?

Challenge

If you haven't done so, Consider committing to the summer scripture reading plan we heard about this week at church. The plan was given to you in your program and can also be found on the EastLake Church app which is accessible on iPhone and Androids.

Closing Prayer

God, you know our next right step and what you are inviting us into. As we head out into our week, help us to be sensitive to your presence and your invitation. Help us to engage in the Bible in meaningful ways so that we can encounter you and the life change you provide.