

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

I Kings 5:1-18

Ice Breaker: What evidences of God's grace have you seen this week?

Ice Breaker: What is the most magnificent building or structure you've seen in person?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Recap:** What has happened so far in the narrative? What have we learned about Solomon? What is the kingdom like at this point in Solomon's reign?
2. Why was David prevented from building the temple in his day? (see 1 Chr. 22:7-10)
3. How does the Lord's wisdom given to Solomon get put on display in this chapter? What was the peaceful treaty between Hiram king of Tyre and Solomon?
4. How are we to understand the forced labor the Solomon put in place to build the temple? How is it different from the evils of the American slave trade? How would you respond to someone who accuses the Bible of condoning slavery?
5. King David had to wait on God's time until the temple was built, even though he desired a good thing. Is there a good thing that God is asking you to wait on him in your own life? What does it look like to faithfully wait on God's timing?
6. Solomon payed careful attention to the materials and construction plans of the temple. What "materials" has God given us to build the solid foundation for our lives? What materials does the world sell us? Why should we pay close attention to what we build upon? (see I Cor. 3:9-17, Eph. 2:19-22)
7. **Read Matt. 7:24-27.** In this parable, what is the difference between these two foundations?
8. As our church becomes Castleton Community Church next week, take some time as a group to read through our Core Values (see below) and discuss how your group can practically live out these foundational building blocks.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What is a foundation? What makes a foundation solid or shaky?
2. Read Matt. 7:24-27. What is the difference in these two foundations?
3. Why is Jesus and his words the best foundation for our lives? Why can we trust it will hold up in the storm?

CASTLETON CORE VALUES



SUPREMACY OF JESUS

We believe that Jesus Christ alone is worthy of our lifelong worship and devotion. Therefore, we devote ourselves to exalting Christ in our worship, ministries and relationships. Our prayer is that all who encounter our congregation would see Jesus high and lifted up.



AUTHORITY OF THE WORD

With Christ as our King, we joyfully submit ourselves to His Word as our ultimate and sufficient authority. We are committed to preaching, praying, singing, teaching, counseling, sharing, and by the power of the Spirit, faithfully walking in accordance to the whole counsel of God.



LOVING COMMUNITY

As those who have experienced and been transformed by the love of Christ, we are compelled to extend Christ's love to all. We strive to be a community that embodies God's redemptive love by welcoming the stranger through biblical hospitality, by bearing burdens of the broken, and by leading people to the One whose love endures forever.



BIBLICAL UNITY IN DIVERSITY

We desire to be a community of believers that reflects the unified beauty of our triune God. We believe that, in Christ, whom God has unified us by his Spirit and therefore we celebrate generational and ethnic diversity of all image bearers God brings into our fellowship. We also value an atmosphere of humility and charity as we engage in theological discussions that fall into the framework of sound doctrine.



EXTRAVAGANT GRACE

As undeserving sinners saved by grace, we desire to be a congregation known for joyfully blessing others with the grace that God has lavished upon us. We seek to demonstrate this by exercising a patient and forbearing spirit, forgiving as God has forgiven us, and extravagantly giving of ourselves and our resources to those God has appointed us to serve.



SHARING THE GOSPEL EVERYWHERE

We believe that every Christian is called to be an ambassador of the kingdom of God by proclaiming the good news of the gospel to those who have not yet believed. We are committed to Christ's "Great Commission" by equipping, supporting, and sending ambassadors of King Jesus to the unreached in our neighborhood, our city, and around the globe.