



Series: Built Not Born

Group Guide - Week 1 (for the week of May 16th)

Scripture References: James 1:2-4 ESV, Proverbs 16:18 MSG , Ruth 1:16 NLT, Luke 2:52 NLT

Series Overview:

There's a huge misconception out there, and it's killing our growth. Believing that people who follow Jesus well were just born that way, we easily back away from the task of allowing God to develop us, to build us. The world around us shows us that God is good at creating. And, his power doesn't stop with nature. His power is available to us too. Great disciples aren't born, they're built. As with any good craftsman, God has the tools and abilities to shape raw material into something beautiful. In this series, we'll be discussing how submission is the true path to growth.

Week One Overview:

When we examine closely the activity of God, certain patterns emerge. God is a god of order, and his activity is true to his character. How He builds us, follows a pattern. Over time, if we are willing, God's desire is to develop us into who he designed us to be. Every moment, every circumstance, every interaction serves as the raw material God uses. Some of these feel more critical than others, and they should. In the first week of this two-part series, we will investigate together how God grows us and how we can help.

Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- Trials = Joy + Faithfulness + Maturity
- *"One might say that the ability to evaluate one's own ability is the most important skill of all. Without it, improvement is impossible."*
Ego is the Enemy, Ryan Holiday
- **Those who don't know the past will be condemned to repeat it.**
- **People who follow Jesus aren't "Born Ready", we are "Built Ready."**
- **In order to be built ready, we must spend time with the Craftsman who created us.**

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. With the brief series and week overview above, what is your description of *Born Ready* vs. *Built Ready*?
2. Proverbs 16:18 msg:
"First pride, then the crash— the bigger the ego, the harder the fall."
 - a. Would you agree that most of us have a "false sense of how prepared we are?"
 - b. What do you credit for making us think/feel this way?
3. *"Those who don't know the past will be condemned to repeat it"*
 - a. Ben stated that we have to know the cycles and curses that have followed generations, but what do we do to stop them?
 - b. Can you name a few cycles that have shown up in your life and what tools you used to choose a different path?
4. Read Ruth 1:16 and Luke 2:52
"Trigger events are used to BUILD us to be ready"

The common triggers in these stories, and most others in the bible and in the people around us are listed in the graph show in *resources* below

 - a. **Triggers:**
Failure, Tragedy, Opportunity, Calling, Opposition

What are some examples of these triggers in your life that have Built you to be who you are?

b. **Choice:**

“We can either choose Submission & Building Up , or Rebellion and Breaking down. “

What are some examples of choosing Submission or Rebellion in your life that you’ve either been Built Up or Broken Down?

5. What are some things currently happening in your life that you need to Submit to God to be used, rather than choosing your own plan?
6. How can we, as a group, Build each other to be ready?

Sunday Morning Resources

- Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4 (ESV)
- But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.” Ruth 1:16 (NLT)
- Jesus grew in wisdom Luke 2:52 (NLT)

