



Series: Built Not Born

Group Guide - Week 2 (for the week of May 30th)

Scripture References: Zephaniah 3:19-20, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 3:23, Proverbs 18:1, Luke 12:15, Acts 7:51, Galatians 6:1-4

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 Two Overview:

There's this particular way God builds us. It's often intense, but it's never in isolation. He has made us relational beings, and his plan for our growth is always carried out in a relational context. Even Jesus, while on earth, modeled this pattern. In order to grow, we must be in an authentic relationship with God and others. Alone we fall prey to desire and poor judgement. Together, we will not so easily fail. This week we will investigate a few sentences from an important letter that will give us a blueprint for how to be built.

Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- God uses us to build each other.
- God is Good & God Can Be Trusted.
- He takes the lame, changes their shame, and restores their fortunes.
- He doesn't build us alone.
- He doesn't build us through rebellion.
- People who know Jesus still fail
- Others who know Jesus should be willing to help when that happens
- Community: a collective of humble burden-bearers

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. It's easy to say God is good, when things are good.. But the statement God is good and can be trusted is hard when things are hard. If you're being honest, there are probably some things right now you're thinking are "too small for God" to worry about and that he can't be trusted with how your life should be.
 - a. What are some things in your life that currently feel too small for God?
 - b. What are some things you're having a hard time trusting God with?
 - c. How often does your trust in God vary?
2. Read Zephaniah 3:19-20
The bible uses the word "lame" to describe someone who is dealing with many things... addiction, sin, greed, etc. God takes the lame, changes our shame, and restores our fortunes.
 - a. Where are some places in your life you feel "lame"
 - b. What are you relying on God to do to restore the "lame" areas of your life?

- c. What are some “fortunes” in your life that you’re missing due to the “lame” places in your life you mentioned in 2a.
3. How does God actually restore us? How has he restored you, personally?
4. Read Romans 3:23 CEV
 - a. This says ALL of us have Failed- what are ways we can be built from our failures?
 - b. Ben mentioned we need to admit our failures to each other so that we can build each other up. If you feel comfortable, can you share with the group current or past failings that the enemy still uses over you?
5. Proverbs 18:1 ESV
 - a. Think about the times in your life you’re least proud of, were you breaking away from sound judgement?
 - b. Do you have people in your life, now, that you feel comfortable sharing current struggles with, that can hold you accountable for your decisions?

Sunday Morning Resources

- I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord. Zephaniah 3:19-20 (ESV)
- The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)
- All of us have sinned. Romans 3:23 (CEV)
- Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)
- Speaking to the people, he went on, “Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.” Luke 12:15 (MSG)
- “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.” Acts 7:51 (ESV)
- “Family dysfunction rolls down from generation to generation like a fire in the woods, taking down everything in its path until one person in one

generation has the courage to turn and face the flames. That person brings peace to their ancestors and spares the children that follow.” - Terry Real

- Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. Galatians 6:1-4 (NLT)