



The Builder

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Focus Jesus is a builder. He developed a plan, framed it so that it joined perfectly together, and created a blueprint, which formed a lasting foundation for our world. He is still building. Today, Jesus wants us to lay hold of that blueprint, claim it, and let Him build something beautiful in us.

Fun Did you ever have building blocks as a child? If so, which ones? What was the most creative thing you constructed with them?

Review Key Scriptures: Hebrews 13:8

1. Jesus built yesterday.

Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 139:15; Jeremiah 29:11

Jesus framed the world from the very beginning. He is eternal. He existed before we existed and was building from the very start. When we were growing in the womb, Jesus was building us. He is God of the past; He is God of *our* past. He can turn our unrighteous past into a righteous future.

2. Jesus builds today.

Luke 19:9; 2 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT); Deuteronomy 11:2, 8, 13, 26–28, 32;

Deuteronomy 26:17–18

When God gives us a word, we need to be obedient and step out in faith. He brings blessings to our lives when we follow through with the commitment He asks of us today. God responds when we respond; He commits to us when we commit to Him. God is God of today and what we do today has consequence. He connects the dots!

3. Jesus will build forever.

Matthew 16:18; 1 Peter 2:5

Jesus is still building His church. We are His church, His living stones. If we do not do what He is calling us to do now, the building process ceases. We must remember that by allowing Him to build in us, He is constructing a legacy for our children and grandchildren. God has been faithful, is faithful, and ever will be faithful. He can build or rebuild any area of our lives and has good plans for us when we lay down our will and let go of fear for the future.

Group Dynamics Commit to praying for the person sitting to your right for the next week. Your prayers can make a difference in someone's life!

- Discuss**
1. *Tekton* is a Greek word for carpenter. In ancient days, a carpenter worked with various materials, such as wood, stone, and metal. As a carpenter, imagine the items Jesus might have built and name a few.
 2. Scripture speaks of Jesus often as a teacher, but can you name some of His other attributes?
 3. Keeping in mind that "Jesus: The Builder" is the theme of the message this week, can you identify something He has already built in your life? What do you believe He is building in your life now?
 4. Thinking about your future, what do you want Jesus to build or rebuild in you? If you're comfortable, share with the group.
 5. God may want to build a better understanding and commitment regarding giving in you. How has your attitude on giving changed through the years?
 6. Recognizing that memories from our past can hurt, do you believe that God can redeem your past and give you a good future? Will you release your past mistakes to God and ask Him to help you learn from them? Are you ready to let Him do this? Spend a quiet moment contemplating what you must let go, then do it!

Take Home

- Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- Jesus continues building in the world and in us, just as He did in the past and will do in the future.

- Our past may cause us hurtful memories, but God can redeem our past and bless our future.
- Obedience brings blessing.
- Giving is an example of obedience.
- If God asks us to do something today, we need to be obedient to do it.

Pray Lord, I want You to continue building me! Take my past and create something wonderful for my future. Help me to be more obedient in my commitment to You. I will do my best to follow through with anything You ask me to do because You have a plan and a purpose for my life. In Jesus' name. Amen!

New Leader Tip Begin a Book of Praises and give everyone the opportunity to add a praise or two before the start of your meeting. Plug in to your creative self and really make it look special! Every so often, read from it at the beginning of the study or before the prayer requests, highlighting a few as a reminder of why God is worthy of our praise.