

STANDING STRONG TOGETHER:

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I. THE POWER OF DOING LIFE TOGETHER

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. **Hebrews 3:12-13**

The Hallmarks of Biblical Community:

Word—study and application of the Bible

Care—meeting each other's physical and spiritual needs

Mission—joining together to serve others and introduce them to Jesus

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and the prayers. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42, 46-47

II. STANDING STRONG ON THE ROCK

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Matthew 7:24-27

The **wise man** (woman, family, church) vs. the **foolish man** (woman, family, church)

III. BUILDING OUR LIVES ON THE ROCK

A Hunger for God—a Hunger for His Word

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation

1 Peter 2:2

I-O-U-S

Incline my heart (Psalm 119:36)

Unite my heart (Psalm 86:11)

Open my eyes (Psalm 119:8)

Satisfy me (Psalm 90:14)

Read It to Do It

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. **23** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror **24** and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. **25** But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. **James 1:22-25**

For Further Study

1. The benefits of reading and obeying God's word are many! Read these passages and make a list of what God promises to do in the life of a person or a family that lives by His Words: **Joshua 1:1-9; Deuteronomy 32:47, Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12.**
2. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119, and the predominant theme of this chapter is the blessings that come to the person who studies and applies God's Word! You'll come across several themes in this psalm, including:
 - *The phrase "I love your law". Isn't it amazing that someone could love laws—this shows the sweetness and blessing of knowing God's Word and God's ways.
 - *Several requests from David, the author, for God to help him pay attention to, see, and understand God's Word.
 - *Several descriptions of benefits that come to the person who studies God's Word.
3. In John 14:21-23, Jesus tells His followers how we can show Him how we really love Him. Read these verses, and discover the quality Jesus looks for in us, and look at the promises He gives to those who truly love Him.
4. Jesus modeled how to use the Bible to help us stand strong when we are tempted. Read Matthew 4:1-11, and notice the specific truths from Scripture that Jesus used to fight off temptations.

Bible Study Resources

Living by the Book by Howard Hendricks

The Navigator Bible Studies Handbook

Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods

Read the Bible for Life by Guthrie -- one year reading and workbook

Apps

Bible (youversion)

Blue Letter Bible

Bible.is

Logos Bible

Bible Gateway

Olive Tree

Get Connected

To find out information about various community groups and places to study the Bible with others, talk with one of the volunteers at Parkview Connect in the foyer.

Learning the Discovery Bible Method: If you would like to learn a method of bible study that works well either for personal or group study, you could attend a Discovery Bible study workshop on September 22 and 29 in room 108 at 11am.