

Building on the Rock . . .

We are offering a series of reflections for individuals and churches who may be finding it difficult to provide midweek prayer and shared learning from Scripture. You can use these by watching the YouTube video, reading the relevant Bible passage and then reflecting on the questions below. To help make this a shared activity, you are encouraged to reflect on this together with friends using an online conference package, or simply arrange with a friend for them to watch it too. Then ring each other up, share what your thoughts and responses and they pray for one another, and pray together for our world.

Read Matthew 7:24-29

Watch the YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/dZL7ZZ50phs>

Now spend some time reflecting on the story of the builders, then ponder these questions:

What's bothering me at the moment? What are your equivalents to the rain, the floods and the wind? What are the worries and narratives that are forever drizzling down? What are the fears and feelings that are rising up within you? What are the pressures and pushes that are blasting you from side to side? Don't hide them away from God, hold them before God, offer them to God, and focus on your foundation.

Who am I listening to? What are the foundations of the narratives that you are hearing? Are you listening to those who speak and act from the right foundation? Whose words are you putting into practice?

What words of Jesus particularly matter to me? Are there words of Jesus that particularly come to mind? Are there words that stand out for you from the preceding chapters? Let them sink in - if they're familiar words, take time to think about what they mean in the here and now - what does it mean for you to "put them into practice"?

What are my foundations? Are you building on the right foundations? Building on the Rock can be tough - be open and honest with God and let the words of Jesus encourage and sustain you. Let them be your foundation.

Has God given me a word to share with someone else? As you have reflected on the words of Jesus, would some of them be a particular encouragement to someone else? Has someone come to mind while you have been reflecting? Have they been brought to mind for a reason? How can you share these words with them?

PRAYER

God, our Fortress and Foundation, help us to hear again the words of life and hope that you would speak to us. Whatever storms and trials might surround us, help us to face them with courage, assured of a foundation that is rooted in you. Let your words speak to me; let them encourage me; let them dwell deeply within me; and by your Spirit equip and enable me to put them into practice. Give me the words to speak to help others in their journey, and though many voices might demand my attention, help me to hear those that are founded in your Word. Through Jesus our Rock. AMEN