

TEACHER / FACILITATOR DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon on the Mount – Session 6

What Kind of Foundation Is Your Life Built On?

Matthew 7:13–27

SESSION OVERVIEW (FOR THE TEACHER)

Big Idea

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount by confronting His listeners with a decision: **Will they merely hear His words, or will they build their lives upon them?** True discipleship is revealed not by words or intentions, but by obedience that withstands life's storms.

Teaching Goal

By the end of this session, participants should:

- Understand the three final contrasts Jesus presents (two gates, two trees, two foundations)
- Recognize that obedience — not knowledge alone — defines genuine discipleship
- Reflect honestly on the foundation they are currently building their lives upon

Time Guide (Suggested – 60–75 minutes)

- Opening & Scripture reading: 10 minutes
 - Teaching & discussion (three movements): 40–50 minutes
 - Personal reflection & closing prayer: 10–15 minutes
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OPENING (10 MINUTES)

Opening Question (Icebreaker)

“Have you ever built or fixed something that later failed because of what you couldn’t see underneath?”

Teacher Notes

- Keep this light and practical (house repairs, furniture, projects, etc.).
- The goal is to introduce the idea that **foundations matter even when they’re invisible**.
- Do not correct or spiritualize answers yet — that comes later.

Opening Prayer

Pray that God would give the group humility, clarity, and courage to respond honestly to Jesus’ words.



SCRIPTURE CONTEXT (FOR THE TEACHER)

Before reading, explain briefly:

“Jesus has just finished teaching about the heart, character, prayer, money, relationships, and trust in God. Now He brings the sermon to a close — not with comfort, but with a challenge.”

Emphasize:

- This is **not new teaching**, but a **call to decision**
- Jesus is pressing the question: *What will you do with what you’ve heard?*

Read **Matthew 7:13–27** aloud (or assign readers).

TEACHING MOVEMENT 1: TWO GATES & TWO ROADS (Matthew 7:13–14)

Key Teaching Point

Every life is moving in a direction — and Jesus says there are only two paths.

Teacher Explanation

- The **wide gate** is attractive because it requires little effort, little resistance, and little change.
- The **narrow gate** is difficult because it demands repentance, obedience, and intentional discipleship.
- Jesus is not saying God wants few people saved; He is saying **true discipleship is costly**.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the wide road is described as “easy” and “crowded”?
2. What makes the narrow road difficult in real life today?
3. How does culture encourage people to choose the wide road — even in religious settings?

Teacher Notes

- Watch for moralism (“good people vs bad people”). Gently redirect toward **obedience vs convenience**.
 - Affirm honest struggles with difficulty — Jesus *expects* it to be hard.
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TEACHING MOVEMENT 2: TRUE & FALSE DISCIPLES (Matthew 7:15–23)

Key Teaching Point



Not everyone who sounds spiritual belongs to Christ.

Teacher Explanation

- Jesus warns about **false prophets** who appear righteous but produce destructive fruit.
- He then shifts from false teachers to **false disciples** — people who say the right words but lack obedience.
- The shocking phrase: *“I never knew you.”*

Emphasize:

- Knowledge, activity, and religious language do not equal relationship.
- Obedience flows out of knowing Christ — it does not replace Him.

Discussion Questions

4. Why do you think Jesus focuses so strongly on actions rather than words?
5. What are some examples today of religious activity without obedience?
6. How can we examine fruit without becoming judgmental?

Teacher Notes

- Be careful here: this can cause fear or defensiveness.
- Emphasize **self-examination**, not judging others.
- Reinforce grace: obedience is the *evidence* of salvation, not the *cause*.

TEACHING MOVEMENT 3: TWO FOUNDATIONS (Matthew 7:24–27)

Key Teaching Point

The difference between wisdom and foolishness is not hearing — it is doing.

Teacher Explanation

- Both builders hear Jesus’ words.
- Both build houses.
- Both experience storms.

The only difference:

- One **acts** on Jesus’ words.
- One does not.



Storms represent:

- Trials
- Suffering
- Temptation
- Ultimately, final judgment

Discussion Questions

7. Why do storms reveal foundations rather than create them?
8. What are some “storms” that test a person’s faith today?
9. What does it practically look like to “build on the rock” in daily life?

Teacher Notes

- Stress that storms are unavoidable.
 - Faith is not proven in calm seasons but in pressure.
 - Encourage concrete examples: forgiveness, integrity, trust, obedience.
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PERSONAL REFLECTION (10 MINUTES)

Invite quiet reflection. You may read this aloud:

“Jesus does not ask us whether we admire His teaching, but whether we obey it.”

Reflection Prompts:

- Where am I currently building my foundation?
- Are there areas where I hear Jesus’ words but resist living them?
- What is one step of obedience God is inviting me to take?

(Allow silence. This is important.)

CLOSING (PRAYER & CHALLENGE)

Closing Prayer

Pray for:

- Courage to choose the narrow way
- Grace to obey when it is costly



- Trust in Christ as the only firm foundation

Optional Take-Home Challenge

Encourage participants to:

- Re-read Matthew 5–7 during the week
 - Choose **one teaching of Jesus** to intentionally practice
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FINAL TEACHER REMINDER

This lesson is not meant to leave people discouraged, but **anchored**.

Jesus' warning is serious — but His invitation is gracious:

“Build your life on Me.”

