

## Matthew 7:24-29 Rock Solid

### Warm Up

Are you any good at DIY? What is the worst DIY story you have? My father once bought a kit to build a trailer tent for our holidays. He was half way through building it, when our neighbour pointed out that he had built it in the back garden. How was he going to get it through the gate?

### Background and context

The final element of this powerful sermon is a parable. Jesus often used parables to reveal spiritual truths. Here He reveals that we have a choice; to put His words into practice and build a God centered life, or not. He also reveals that storms are unavoidable, they are a part of life and that there is a great storm coming soon; judgment day. If our lives are built on faith in Jesus and obedience to His teaching, we will not only survive the storm but thrive in life and relationships.

### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



**READ Matthew 7:24-29.** What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. Which is more important, what you build or where you build? Think back to my father's trailer tent debacle!
2. **Look up the following verses from Matthew. 6:33, 6:9, 6:31-32, 7:9-11.** Jesus wants us to live a God centred life. What do we learn about God and what a God centred life looks like?
3. The priorities of a life built on the rock are: **Reconciliation/forgiveness, purity, faithfulness in relationships, generosity, integrity and love.** Where do we see these taught in the sermon?
4. How easy is it to live according to these priorities in today's world? What causes us to struggle with these things?
5. What does Jesus mean when He speaks of storms/bad weather in 7:27?
6. How does building a life on the rock of Jesus help us withstand the storms of life?
7. The greatest storm is yet to come. How strong is your house? Is it built on the rock?

### Discipleship and Application



8. In the last six months, since we have been studying the Sermon on the Mount, has your life changed? Have you put Jesus' words into action? Reflect on where you have/have not done so.
9. The more we build on the wrong site, the harder it is to change. What are the things people struggle to surrender to Jesus? What is there in your life?



### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.