

Transition:

To conclude the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus covers several subjects like laying up treasure, anxiety, judgment, prayer, the golden rule and recognizing false prophets. When He finishes teaching, Scripture says the crowds were astonished at His teaching – for He was teaching them as one who had authority! Instead of simply passing on the teachings of the rabbis who came before Him, Jesus was teaching something original – so much so, that it shocked people!

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to build a house? What is the difference between the wise man and the foolish man? What does the rock and sand represent?
2. What do you think rain, floods and winds represent? Is this still true for us today?

Fundamental:

The Bible – “The rock” in this story is the Word of God, the Truth, the Way. Jesus is saying that there is a right way and a wrong way to live your life. The bedrock of Christianity is the Bible. We believe that it is the inerrant, inspired and infallible Word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17).

1. How did we get our Bible? (66 books, 40+ authors, written over 1500 years, same story; Council of Laodicea)
2. Has the Bible changed over time? (Dead Sea Scrolls; Textual criticism)
3. Is it really that important to read daily and memorize Scripture? (Heb 4:12)
4. If you chose to “build your own house on sand,” do you believe your house will fall?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Find a Bible reading plan and follow it. Find a method of memorizing Scripture.
2. Please read Matthew 8 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Bring young believers in your group into what Bible reading plan YOU follow. Volunteer to read along with them and answer any questions they have about what they are reading day to day. It is imperative that your disciples know that you believe the Bible is the Word of God and that you would be lost without it.

Prayer:

Pray that God will help hide His Word in their hearts. May Scripture be the standard by which they live and not compare themselves to others.