**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Which Kind of Soil Are You?**

Review the video for this session.



**Engage**

Read [Mark 4:1–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk4.1-20).

**Consider**

Deciding to do something can be easy. We can commit to an art class, saving money, starting or stopping certain habits, and plenty of other things. But sticking with our decisions can be hard. It can be easy to decide to follow Jesus in a moment, too. In today’s story about a farmer planting seeds, Jesus taught that it isn’t just the onetime decision to follow Him that matters. It’s our continued commitment to Him.

There are lots of things that want to destroy our commitment to Jesus. We have a real spiritual enemy named Satan. There are problems and difficulties we face. Other things in this world fight for our attention, like money, school, work, hobbies, and other desires. With all this pushing against us, will we remain committed to Jesus?

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think the lure of money and wealth can threaten to choke out God’s Word from someone’s life? |

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| **QUESTION**  What are some examples of the harvest that is produced by someone whose heart is “good soil”? |

**Reflect**

The story tells us the seed that fell on the good soil produced a harvest of “thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” That’s a lot! When you let God’s Word take root in your heart, you have the potential to produce more than you could ever imagine for the kingdom of God.

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| **QUESTION**  As a follower of Jesus, what are some practical steps you can take to stay rooted in your faith? |

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| **QUESTION**  How can you become more spiritually fruitful in your life? |

**Activate**

One important way to keep your heart open to God’s Word is to make reading, studying, and memorizing it a daily discipline. Make a commitment to finish each of the daily devotions this week. Write down a time that works each day for you to spend time in God’s Word.

**Pray**

Dear God, help me to fall in love with Your Word. I want to be more committed to reading it than I have ever been before. As I commit to spending time with You daily, please meet with me and help me to grow in You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 2: Firm Foundations**

**Engage**

Read [Matthew 7:24–29](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt7.24-29).

**Consider**

In [Matthew 7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt7), Jesus was finishing the Sermon on the Mount, which was His teaching about the kingdom of God. It ends with a story about two houses. Both houses faced storms, but only one house survived. The difference between the two houses was the foundation that they were built on.

The main idea is this: Hearing God’s Word won’t help us if we don’t apply it and obey it. The only way to remain committed to God’s Word through challenges is to build your life on what it says.

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| **QUESTION**  How does this story compare to the parable about the farmer planting seeds in [Mark 4:1–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk4.1-20)? |

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| **QUESTION**  What happened to the house that was built on the sand? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does a life that’s been built on sand look like? |

**Reflect**

Notice how Jesus never promised that storms wouldn’t hit the house of the wise person. The storms hit both houses just the same. Following Jesus doesn’t mean that bad things won’t happen to us. It does mean that when bad things happen and challenges come, we can have a firm foundation that will last because of Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**  Have you ever faced a difficult time in your life? How did God help you remain committed through it? |

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| **QUESTION**  Are there areas of your life where you know what God’s Word says, but you aren’t obeying it? Why? |

**Activate**

When we recognize that we have been disobedient in an area of our life, the best way to respond is to ask forgiveness and repent—to turn away from the sin. If the Holy Spirit has shown you an area of your life where you are disobedient today, take a moment in prayer to ask for forgiveness and then repent. Perhaps it involves another person. If so, ask that person to forgive you for any hurt you have caused them.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for loving me enough to show me the areas of my life that need work. I want my whole life to be obedient to You. Forgive me for the areas where I have gone my own way. Help me to build on the right foundation in You. Amen.

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**Day 3: Rooted and Built Up**

**Engage**

Read [Colossians 2:6–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Col2.6-10).

**Consider**

Paul wrote this letter to Christians in the city of Colossae. Some consider this letter to be his most assertive writing. The whole letter confronts the members of the church not to veer off course in their faith. Paul wanted to make sure that they stayed on the path of truth instead of being deceived by false teaching. Basically, he was trying to call them back to the first moments when they placed their trust in Jesus. This passage challenges us to stay on course in our faith, too.

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| **QUESTION**  What was the problem that Paul seemed to be correcting in this passage? |

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| **QUESTION**  What do you think it means for your faith to grow strong in truth? |

**Reflect**

Paul was passionately trying to keep the Colossians on track. Our world is different from the world they lived in almost two thousand years ago, but the same temptations exist for us. There are wrong beliefs and philosophies, empty deceits, and worldly traditions that are trying to capture our attention and pull us away from Jesus. We should take Paul’s words to heart and remember to keep Jesus at the center of everything we do.

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| **QUESTION**  What are some things that threaten to pull you away from your faith in Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**  What are some habits that would help you establish a more rooted, built-up faith? |

**Activate**

Paul instructed the believers to “overflow with thankfulness” in response to the building up of faith. Practice that today. Listen to your favorite worship song and intentionally give thanks to God for what He has done in your life.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for loving me. Help me to keep You as the center of my life and faith. If anything threatens to take me captive, please show me. I am committed to growing in my faith. Amen.

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**Day 4: Meditate on God’s Word**

**Engage**

Read [Psalm 1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps1).

**Consider**

The Book of Psalms kicks off with a reminder about what a God-honoring life looks like. This passage uses a tree as an image of this kind of life: one that is planted firmly, watered regularly, and producing fruit consistently. If you pay close attention, this psalm shows how the friends we have, the habits we keep, and the results we see in our life are all indicators of our righteousness, or our lack of right living.

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| **QUESTION**  According to verse [1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps1.1), what type of person should we not take advice from? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think God cares about the people that we listen to? |

**Reflect**

This passage instructs us to meditate on His law all the time. The word *meditate* can be confusing because of its use in other religious teachings. In this context, meditating is filling your mind with God’s Word and thinking deeply about it. It’s a step further than just reading it. This means you read it, think about it, and think about it even more throughout your day.

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| **QUESTION**  Is it difficult for you to meditate on God’s Word? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**  How can you develop the discipline of meditating on God’s Word? |

**Activate**

Practice meditating on God’s Word. For the remainder of the week, read and meditate on the Scripture passages in these personal devotions. Do this in addition to answering the questions. Take a few extra minutes to really think about what you are reading before looking at the questions. Reread the passages a few times each day. Let God’s Word sink in.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You so much for Your Word. I want to continue to grow in it. Help me to meditate on it day and night, so that I can continue to grow in my faith. I know I can trust You. I pray that You will bring Your Word to life in me and in the hearts of those who are following You. Amen.

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**Day 5: Growing and Graduating**

**Engage**

Read [Hebrews 6:1–3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb6.1-3).

**Consider**

What if you started every single year of high school by relearning your shapes, numbers, and letters? That would be ridiculous. At some point, you grow up and move on to more mature subjects like algebra, biology, and grammar. The author of Hebrews said that it should be the same in our faith, too. We shouldn’t have to keep getting saved and rededicated all the time. Instead, we should learn to stay committed to Jesus, and we should grow in Him with more and more maturity. Let this passage challenge you to grow in your walk with Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**  What does the author of Hebrews list as some basic teachings? |

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| **QUESTION**  What do you think it means to move forward to further understanding? |

**Reflect**

Having a deeper understanding in our faith doesn’t mean that we forget the basics like forgiveness of sins and faith in God. It just means that we use them as the foundation, and we build on them. We graduate upward in our faith, but we never graduate past our need for forgiveness or our faith in God. That’s foundational.

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| **QUESTION**  What are some practical ways that you can mature in your own faith? |

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| **QUESTION**  Who is someone you know who can help you move forward in your faith? |

**Activate**

Find someone who is considerably more spiritually mature than you are—someone who has been walking with and growing in Jesus for a long time. Spend some time with them and ask them what it looks like to be spiritually mature and grounded in the faith. Take notes and ask if they would help you in this area.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for pushing me to mature and grow through these devotions. I never want to lose my desire to grow closer to You, and I never want to veer off course. Help me to stay grounded and rooted in You as I walk through life. Be my Guide every day and help me to fall in love with Your Word. Amen.