

## **GNCOMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE**

SERMON SERIES: "MAKE IT TO MATURITY"

SERMON TITLE: "PUT IT INTO PRACTICE"

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◆ **Facilitator NOTE:** AS YOU PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME, LOOK THROUGH THE PASSAGES/QUESTIONS BELOW TO HELP YOURSELF PRIORITIZE THE THINGS THAT YOU DEFINITELY WANT TO COVER WITH THE TIME YOU HAVE AVAILABLE. YOU LIKELY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COVER ALL THIS MATERIAL. TRY TO KEEP THE STUDIES TO AROUND AN HOUR FOR THE KIDS/KIDS-HELPERS SAKE.

### **SERMON IN A SENTENCE:**

"WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS ONLY AS VALUABLE AS WHAT YOU PRACTICE."

*(use the questions you want to use, ignore the ones you don't want to use, and add any that you think would be good)*

### **WARM UP QUESTIONS:**

- 🗨️ What are some examples of things in your life that you believe, and because of that belief, it absolutely affects how you live your life?
- 🗨️ Why do you think there is oftentimes a disconnect between what we say we believe and how we practice that belief?
- 🗨️ What are some examples of things in your life where you feel like there is a disconnect between what you believe to be true and how you live out that belief?

### **DIVE INTO SCRIPTURE:**


**James 1:22-25** — "22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it —not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."

- 🗨️ What in this passage challenges your faith?

- 🗨️ Why is it often so easy to hear the truth found in God's word and not apply it or live it out in our lives?
- 🗨️ What do you think of James' analogy to try and illustrate this point (about the man looking in a mirror and forgetting what he looks like after walking away)?
- 🗨️ Do you view the Bible as "the perfect law that gives freedom"? Why or why not?
- 🗨️ Do you believe the promise that you will be blessed if you live out the Word of God? Does that motivate you in any way?


**Matthew 7:21-27** — “**21** Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ **23** Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ **24** “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

- 🗨️ Does verse 21 scare you? If so, why?
- 🗨️ Is it possible to fool God? If not, and if you believe this as an immovable fact, how should that truth cause you to live?
- 🗨️ Beyond the possible thoughts of the children's song in your mind, what does the imagery of the house being either built on the rock or the sand cause you to think about your life and faith?
- 🗨️ Clearly you would prefer to build a house on a rock as apposed to sand, but what do you think about Jesus likening it to how someone lives out and puts into practice His words?

 Which scenario does your life more reflect? The house being built on a rock or on the sand?


### **TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU “TAKEAWAY”:**

- ☀ Does your life and practices match what you say you believe?
- ☀ How can you better align your actions with your beliefs?
- ☀ Who can you connect with for prayer and encouragement to help you in this?

 Close in prayer.

## MATCHING THEME IDEAS FOR THE KID’S LESSON:

- I’d encourage a worship time if possible (youtube works great {Lifetree Kids & Bible Project}).
- Ask them if they have any things in their life that they need Jesus’ help with, and then pray for the requests of the group.
- And feel free to ask any of the kids if they’d like to say a prayer for the group.

 Read **Matthew 7:24-27** — “**24** Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

### **Ask the kiddos questions like:**

- Where would you rather build your house? On the rock or sand?
- If you believe in Jesus, what does He want you to then do? (love God and love others)

### **Activity Ideas:**

 Sing the “Wise Man Built His House Upon The Rock” song.