

Predicting the Future Small Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Summary

In this message, Josh explores Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builders from Matthew 7:24-27. The core principle is simple yet profound: direction determines destination. We can actually predict our future based on the paths we choose today. Jesus teaches that wisdom isn't just about knowing His words—it's about implementing them. Building on the rock requires hard work and intentionality, but it creates a foundation that withstands life's storms. The foolish person hears Jesus' words but ignores them, building on sand. Our decisions today have eternal consequences, and following Jesus' way offers the only firm foundation for life.

Icebreaker Question

Think about a time when you or someone you know "should have seen that coming." What happened, and what warning signs were missed?

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Matthew 7:24-27](#). Josh said, "Wisdom is knowledge in action." Where in your life do you find yourself knowing what Jesus teaches but struggling to actually put it into practice? What makes the gap between knowing and doing so difficult?
2. Read [Proverbs 4:26](#). The sermon emphasized that "direction determines destination." If you're honest about the path you're currently on (relationally, financially, spiritually, etc.), where will you likely be in 5-10 years? Is that where you want to end up?
3. Read [James 1:22-25](#). Jesus never promised a "quick fix"—He promised a firm foundation. How does this truth challenge the way our culture (and sometimes our faith) approaches problems? When have you experienced the difference between a quick fix and a firm foundation?
4. Read [Matthew 7:25](#). What "storms" are you currently facing or anticipating? How does building your life on Jesus' teachings give you confidence to face those storms differently?

than you would otherwise?

5. **Read [Proverbs 27:12](#)**. Pastor Josh asked: "What has God asked me to do that I have been unwilling to do?" or "What has God asked me to stop doing that I continue to do?" Take a moment of silence to reflect, then share (if comfortable): What came to mind, and what's one practical step you can take this week?
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Prayer Requests

- **For courage** to honestly evaluate the paths we're on and face the truth about where our current direction is taking us
- **For wisdom** to not just hear Jesus' words but to actually implement them in the hard areas of our lives where obedience is costly
- **For perseverance** to do the hard work of building on the rock, even when shortcuts and easier paths are tempting
- **For faith** to trust that Jesus' way leads to life, even when we can't see the full picture or understand why certain teachings matter