

2025 *Women's Build*

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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*For every
house is built
by someone,
but God is
the builder
of everything.*

HEBREWS 3:4

God is the Master Builder

Welcome to the 2025 WMU of Texas Women's Build!

While the work is difficult and the temperatures are hot, the reward is far greater than the sacrifice. Our task is as much a spiritual endeavor as a physical one. Over the years, we have seen God at work in the lives of the families. We have witnessed the impact of a changed family and its power to transform an entire community.

Hebrews 3:4 is a great reminder of the source of all we do. Yes. We are wielding the hammers, saws, and materials. We are providing the labor. But this verse challenges us to remember that **God is truly the Master Builder of all things**. The physical house we provide becomes a true family home when the Holy Spirit moves in.

In preparation for each day's work, I invite you to commit to spending time with the Lord each day during the build. Even when it isn't "your week," I would ask that you join us on our devotional journey. There is much power in community prayer and study. As we work together, we can be of one accord spiritually. Each day's devotional is an opportunity for you to seek the Lord, grow in your own relationship with Him, and pray for the team and family.

Thank you for being the hands, feet, heart, and voice of the Lord in Mission, TX.

Praying alongside,

Teri Ussery

Adult Strategist, WMU of Texas

DAY 3



DAY 10



DAY 8



DAY 4



DAY 9



DAY 6



DAY 5



DAY 7



DAY 2

Introduction

Building a home is an important task. Homes provide a place for individuals or families to grow and thrive. There are many things that go into the building of a home. While we are providing a house — the structure — it is the Lord Who builds a home.

This week, as we work on the physical structure, I encourage you to dedicate time to pray over the various parts of the house and the spiritual significance they can have for the family.

Read Matthew 7:24–27.

Jesus concludes His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) with the parable of the wise and foolish builder. As you reflect on Jesus' message, record your insights below.

As we build the house over the next two weeks, we will focus on different elements of the structure and their spiritual significance.

Each day, I encourage you to complete the spiritual house by writing a prayer or a Word from the Lord for each of the elements.



At the end of the 10 days, you will not only see the completed physical structure, but you will also see the spiritual structure in place.

Foundation

The construction process always begins with the foundation. If memory serves, all previous builds have had the foundation already laid by skilled professionals before our teams arrive. This crucial first step is meticulously planned and executed, with precise measurements and ground preparation. Any error in the foundation compromises the entire structure, rendering it unsound.

The same is true in life. If we don't have a firm foundation upon which to build, our life is structurally compromised and will never be truly sound.

What constitutes a strong foundation for life and family?

The following scriptures offer characteristics of a healthy spiritual foundation. Read each passage and identify the foundational elements mentioned:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

PRAY

On page 4, write a prayer for the family on the foundation.

- As you physically build, pray for the family who will inhabit this home.
- Pray that Jesus Christ will be the foundation of their lives. Ask God to instill in each family member a heart for consistent prayer and gratitude.
- Pray that they will exchange their worries for prayers, trusting in Almighty God as their provider. Ask that God's Word remain the guiding light for their lives and decisions, and that they commit to growing in their relationship with Christ.

Roof

Having a well-built roof is vital for protecting those in the home. When the storms come, the rain falls, and the winds blow, having a solid covering is essential.

Scripture also provides examples of the importance of spiritual covering.

Read Psalm 91.

This passage is a great reminder of God's covering over us as we journey.

Consider some of the Psalmist's words.

Psalm 91:1 – When we dwell or literally remain in the shelter of THE Most High, we rest in His shadow. Living in the presence of God Almighty gives us not only shelter in life's storms, but also rest.

Think of a time in your life when the storm was raging, yet you were able to rest. You may want to journal as you reflect.

Reflect: _____

Psalm 91:2 – The Psalmist calls the Lord his refuge and fortress. *Refuge* is defined as a *condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or trouble*. Think about the power of the word. The Lord is that place. He is also called a fortress. That word brings to my mind visions of the castle with its high walls and heavy gate. And on the wall stand soldiers ready to defend those who dwell within.

Reflect: _____

*Trust in the Lord is the key that unlocks the power
of the refuge and fortress.*

According to **Psalm 91:3-6**, record everything the Lord will do for you.

Reflect: _____

I have often used this passage to pray over my own family. I have prayed the words of this scripture and asked specifically, by name, for Almighty God to be the shelter and refuge for family members. By name, I have asked God to be and do all the things He reveals in this chapter.

As we build the house this week, I want to invite the Almighty to be the covering over this family.

PRAY

Spend your remaining time praying Psalm 91 over this family who will inhabit the home. Journal any insights the Lord gives you as you pray.

Remember to record your thoughts or prayers for the family on the roof of the house on page 4.

Windows

My normal morning routine begins with opening all the blinds downstairs in my house. I love starting my day with the morning light pouring in. Yet, I can still be in a climate-controlled, mostly pest-free environment. My windows let in what I love (the light) and keep out what I don't (heat, bugs).

The scripture focus for the windows on the family's home may seem unusual. The window in this story let Daniel "see" beyond his own dwelling to the world outside, yet didn't protect him from the dangers outside.

Read Daniel 6:10

"But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God."

In the case of our scripture focus, Daniel's window was his vantage point to commune with God, yet he also experienced difficulty because his actions were visible to the outside world.

This passage provides the reason Daniel was thrown into the lion's den. Those in authority were jealous of Daniel and the favor he had with King Darius. Because of his exceptional qualities, Daniel was poised to be placed in authority over all the other administrators. Their jealousy led them to deceive the king into enacting a law that would preclude prayer to any other but the King. Surely the King's ego led him to accept the suggestion and pass the edict.

Daniel's habit of life was to pray by the window towards Jerusalem, the home of his people, three times a day. The administrators knew of this practice and used it as a trap to have Daniel executed.

Yet Daniel, knowing fully that the edict was in place, never wavered from his prayer life.

Daniel's relationship with Almighty God was evidenced through the window each and every day. He didn't fear what was outside the window that might bring him harm, because his strength and courage also came from his daily experience at the window with his Heavenly Father.

PRAY

Record a prayer for the family on the window of the home on page 4.

- Pray for the family, that the windows in their home might let in the light and keep out the elements.
- Pray that through spiritual windows, they might have daily time, focusing in prayer on Almighty God, and that they would experience His presence, power, and peace in their lives.

Doors

Doors. They open to let others inside. They close to keep others out. They often lock. They can be slammed in anger. They can be softly opened to pursue relationships.

Doors in scripture are most often used metaphorically to convey opportunities and divine guidance. Even people who are not deeply spiritual make reference to open and closed doors when making decisions.

Let's explore a few passages about doors in scripture.

Revelation 3:7-8 (NLT)

Write this letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia. This is the message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open: "I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me.

Record what you learn from this passage.

Pray for this family to experience spiritual open doors. Ask God to provide wisdom and guidance for each family member as they grow in their journey with Christ.

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

What is the characteristic you observe most consistently in this passage?

PRAY

Pray for the family to experience the power of persistence in their relationship with the Lord. Thank the Lord for His faithfulness in their lives as they keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking.

John 10:7-10

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Record what you learn from this passage.

In this passage, Jesus identifies Himself as THE GATE. He is the only doorway to salvation. Anyone who enters through Jesus, will be saved. He is the provision for not only eternal life, but He will also provide pasture for those who are His. He will take care of His sheep like no other can or ever will.

PRAY

Pray for the family that each and every one of them will come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. Pray that they will not only find salvation through Him, but will also find pasture in their relationship with Him. Pray that they will know His complete provision for every area of life.

Choose the verse that most spoke to you and record it on the door of the house on page 4.

Walls

During week two, the team focuses on sheetrocking the interior walls of the house. While these walls may seem to divide, their true purpose is to create private spaces, offering a refuge from the world's noise and a place for quiet refreshment.

Jesus Himself understood the importance of seeking solitude and being spiritually renewed by His Father during His ministry. He frequently withdrew to quiet places to be still and connect with God.

The disciples witnessed the power that emanated from these times of withdrawal. In fact, the only thing recorded in Scripture that the disciples specifically asked Jesus to teach them was how to pray.

The result is recorded in both Luke and Matthew. We will consider the Matthew passage.

Read Matthew 6:5-15.

I know this is a familiar passage to all of us, but I want you to read it with fresh eyes, focusing on the sections we may often overlook.

According to **Matthew 6:5-8** Jesus provides a contrast in how to pray.

Record what Jesus says we are NOT to do when we pray.

Record what Jesus says we ARE to do when we pray.

What is the one commonality in both of these cases?

I hope you answered that the common theme is that Jesus seems to make the assumption that we already pray. He doesn't say **if** you pray. He says **when** you pray.

Now, back to our house.

PRAY

As we construct the walls that delineate the different areas within the house, pray over each space. May God so abundantly fill these rooms that every family member discovers a sanctuary of peace and tranquility, a place where they can learn to pray and experience the profound power of withdrawing to a quiet place with Jesus.

You have permission to write on the wall! Record your prayer for family members on the walls of the house on page 4.

Floors

Where we walk is important. God wants to guide our steps. He longs for us to walk in His path. Today, we will read and reflect on the scriptures below that instruct where and how we walk.

Deuteronomy 5:33 (ESV)

"You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess."

What command do you find in this passage? Record your thoughts.

What is the benefit of obeying the command? Record your thoughts.

1 John 1:7

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin".

What command do you find in this passage? Record your thoughts.

What is the benefit of obeying the command? Record your thoughts.

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

In this passage, record what you learn about walking.

Scripture has a lot to say about where and how we walk, which tells me our journey is important to God. As you work on the house this week, think about where your feet have walked all around and inside the house.

Paul tells us in **Ephesians 6:15** that we are to have our *feet fitted with readiness that comes from the gospel of peace*. He is describing the footwear of the soldier who is clothed in the armor of God.

When we are truly a warrior for the Kingdom of God, everywhere we walk, we should first of all be ready to share the Gospel of Jesus. Secondly, we walk in peace. Peace should be what we each leave in our wake as we journey.

PRAY

Pray for the family as you walk the house this week.

- Pray that they may know Christ as their Savior.
- Pray that there may be peace within the walls of the home.
- Pray that the love of Jesus would guide each of their paths.
- Pray that they may walk in the light of life through Christ.

Record a prayer or word of encouragement you will pray over the family on the floor of the house on page 4.

Cabinets

I have recently moved my elderly parents from their home of 15 years, into a senior living apartment. After cleaning out and downsizing the possessions they've accumulated over 69 years of marriage, they now find it overwhelming. Decisions must be made about what will fit and what can't be moved to the apartment.

I have gone through many cabinets over the past few weeks. As I think about the Women's Build Project and all the new cabinets to be installed, they arrive empty, just waiting to be filled. To me, empty cabinets are exciting. Filled with nothing but potential. An opportunity to organize. Perhaps places for things that haven't been acquired yet.

But I also think about cabinets metaphorically.

We all have things stored in our minds and hearts. Some of those things are wonderful. Memories of experiences with friends and enjoyable family events. Memories of moments shared with grandparents who are now with Jesus. Memories of friends who may have moved to another place, or who also have gone to their Heavenly Home.

We also have those cabinets containing things that are pushed to the back, behind closed cabinet doors. Things we don't want to revisit, yet are also memories and experiences that have shaped us, but may be difficult to think about.

I think everyone could use a good cabinet cleaning every once in a while. Pull those things out from the back and let Jesus have them.

He doesn't want us to store them. He wants us to cast them on Him, because He is the only One truly able to care for our difficulties and struggles.

As the family moves into their new home, they will have empty cabinets to fill. They may bring certain things with them. There may also be things they will choose to leave behind.

Let's consider what God's Word tells us about acquiring things to be stored in our earthly cabinets.

Read Matthew 6:19–21.

Record what you learn about treasures.

PRAY

- Pray for the family as they begin to fill their cabinets. Pray for anything in their personal cabinets that needs to be processed and turned over to Jesus.
- Pray that they will seek God as they begin to fill their new cabinets. Pray that they will look to Him to provide for all their needs. Pray that God will challenge their hearts to store up heavenly treasures by investing in relationships instead of material possessions.
- **Matthew 6:33** reminds us to seek *first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and everything else will be provided for us through Him*. Pray that the family will truly seek God's Kingdom and be blessed beyond measure by His generosity.

Write a prayer of cleansing and a prayer of provision in the cabinet of the home on page 4.

Power

I often get advertisements for power generators when scrolling the internet. The ads are based on the fear people have of being without electricity during storms or freezing weather.

When I see those ads, I am convicted of how totally dependent on electricity I have become. I instantly ponder all the things I use that require power.

As this new home is being prepared, wires are pulled through the walls to power outlets, light fixtures, fans, a stove, a dishwasher, multiple appliances, and technology devices. The list is almost endless of all the things in the home requiring a power source.

Once the lines are run throughout the house, they will all be connected to a primary source of power. We can have all the wiring in the world, but unless it's connected to a power source, it is useless.

It is the same way with the believer. We can truly be wired up in and through. We can have all the right thoughts and ideas. We can be kind and want to help others. We can even open the Bible and read the words. But unless we are connected to the source of power, all of those things are meaningless. We will still be empty and powerless on the inside.

For the Christ-follower, once we connect to the power source, scripture says, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

Jesus explained to His disciples that He would be leaving them. But He would be sending Someone in His place to give them all the power they needed to do what He called them to do.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

What does Jesus say about power?

What will they be empowered to do?

Jesus says the Holy Spirit is the power we need to accomplish everything He calls us to do.

Let's explore another verse that will explain the source of power.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How is God described?

What will God fill you with?

What do you have to do?

Who is the source of your power?

Ephesians 3:16–19

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Record everything you learn about power in this passage.

How does this passage connect power with the love of God?

How are you "filled" according to this passage?

PRAY

As you pray for the family, pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to be alive in them. Pray that they may be rooted and established in the love of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that the family may overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit as the God of all hope.

Record your prayers on the house graphic representing a power source on page 4.

Porch

There's nothing more inviting than a beautiful front porch. A couple of rocking chairs and seasonal flowers. Maybe a wreath on the door. A front porch that says to others, "come on over and sit a while". Let's visit.

While that may conjure a mental picture of Mayberry of the 1950s more than present-day living, the idea is that the front porch is the place that invites people to come in — or not.

I love that we always celebrate the Home Dedication Ceremony on the front porch of the houses we build. A place where we pray over the family. A place where we gather to share from God's Word. A place where we present the family with a Bible for their new home.

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

These words of Jesus teach us many things in a few short words.

Jesus is a gentleman. He doesn't barge in, uninvited. He patiently waits, standing at the door. He knocks. He waits. He longs to come inside.

He invites anyone who hears to open the door. He isn't exclusive in His invitation. He doesn't say anyone who is wealthy, or a good person, or who has never done anything wrong can open the door. He says *anyone who hears*.

And what happens when we open the door to Him? He comes in. He eats with us. We eat with Him. In other words, we share a meal together.

Think of all the wonderful relationships that are built and strengthened around the dinner table. Events of the day are shared. There is laughter and sometimes tears. Encouragement is experienced. Struggles are shared and burdens borne by others. We celebrate. We build memories.

That is what Jesus wants to have with those of us who answer the door and let Him inside.

Many people will come across the front porch of this home. Many opportunities for relationships will start at the front door. Many experiences will begin as others step across the threshold of the home.

PRAY

Today's devotional is a challenge to spend time in prayer.

- Pray for the family.
- Pray for those who will enter the home that they will experience the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for an open invitation for others to come to Christ.

Write a prayer of dedication on the porch of the house graphic.

A Final Word

At the time of writing this devotional, I don't know the spiritual condition of the family. But God does. And He has invited each one of us to be a part of their journey into a new home. And while a new home is a wonderful new beginning for the family, pray that this will be a new beginning for them spiritually as well.

Whether it is coming to faith as a new Christ-follower, or growing in a relationship with Him, pray that the door of their hearts will be open to the Lord and the activity of the Holy Spirit.

