

WMU of Texas

————— 2026 —————

Women's Build

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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**Therefore, as you
received Christ
Jesus the Lord, so
walk in Him, rooted
and built up in Him
and established in
the faith, just as
you were taught,
abounding in
thanksgiving.**

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 ESV

Built on Christ

Once again, we find ourselves building. Construction materials. Tools. Supplies to provide a dwelling place. But in reality, what are we really being asked to build?

As I consider the stories of previous families who have received homes, I see so much more than just a foundation, walls and a roof. I remember the story of a family's potential fracturing, being brought back together in their new home. I recall meeting young college students who were bound to drop out of high school before the gift of a new home for a new start. And then there was the young toddler who was to be removed from his family's trailer because of serious health issues and was able to stay with his loving family when they received a safe, new home.

While these are great stories, the most lasting impact of the new home is in the relationships built that lead to a decision to follow Christ that provides an eternal home in glory. I remember the story of a family who accepted Christ as they watched the love of the build team and heard Christ being given the glory. I recall a young woman who joined our team out of nowhere, looking to serve but not knowing Christ, who in the following year became a Christ follower because of what she experienced in the build team. And then there was the entire family who sat with two build team members who shared the Gospel through the wordless book and saw the family come to faith in Christ.

As we have received Christ as Lord, we are called to exhibit five characteristics. Paul, who authored this letter to the Colossian church, admonishes them to walk in Him, be rooted in Him, to be built up in Him, to be established in the faith, and to abound in thanksgiving.

As we embark on our work this week, we will unpack this verse as the foundation for our work. Building the home for this precious family is simply God's way of opening the door for us to share Christ.

As missional disciple-makers, God is giving us an opportunity to share the Gospel, encourage those who already have a relationship with the Lord, and to provide opportunities for sharing Christ by serving others. Pray each day that God will use YOU to share HIM with those He brings into your path.

Praying Alongside,

Teri Ussery

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**All Scripture is
breathed out by God
and profitable for
teaching, for reproof,
for correction,
and for training in
righteousness, that
the man of God may
be complete, equipped
for every good work.**

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 ESV

Bible Study Method

Each day as you spend time on your devotional, I want to encourage you to employ the SOAP method of study. WMU of Texas has used this as the structure for our new resources, and we wanted to share it here as well.

SOAP is an acronym that will help you study God's Word.

S

Scripture. Begin your study time by reading the Scripture passage. You may wish to read it through a couple of times.

O

Observations. Read it again with the purpose of making observations. No need to interpret what it means; simply observe what the passage says. Who is speaking? Who is the audience or recipient of the message? Are there any words or ideas that are repeated? Do you observe a command or promise? There will be questions in this portion to help you with each passage.

A

Application. Read the passage again and consider how you can apply it to your life or circumstances. Is there a principle taught that you can apply in your own life? Is there a promise or command? What does it mean personally? What do you learn about God in the passage? Is there something in the passage that asks you to do something or do something differently?

P

Pray. Spend time in prayer about the passage. Talk to God about what you've observed and ask Him to speak to you through the passage. Ask Him to remind you throughout the day about what He shared with you during your time together.

DAY ONE – WALK WITH HIM

“Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” 1John 2:6 ESV

Scripture

Read 1John 2:3-6

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Observations

What is our assurance that we have come to know Him?

What do you learn about the one who DOES NOT KEEP His commandments?

What do you learn about the one who KEEPS His Word?

What does John say about the one who abides in Him?

Application

God desires a fully integrated life. I've often heard people say that they admire those who "walk the talk." How consistent are your words with your walk? Do you say you love God and yet fail to prioritize His commandments in your life? John tells us that the love of God is perfected in keeping His Word.

Reflect on what this passage teaches about what God desires for you. How can you apply that to your life today? Record your thoughts.

Pray

Spend time in prayer using this passage as a guide.

DAY TWO - ROOTED IN CHRIST

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.” **Jeremiah 17:7-8 ESV**

Scripture

Read Jeremiah 17:7-8

Observations

What does this passage say about the man who trusts in the Lord?

What is the picture Jeremiah paints to illustrate this trust?

What are the two things the man who trusts the Lord does NOT experience?

What does this passage tell us about bearing fruit?

Application

I find it interesting that Jeremiah uses the illustration of a tree to describe the man blessed for trusting in the Lord. As people, I think we often feel the pressure to make our own way. To be independent. But Jeremiah's picture of the tree sheds a completely different light.

As far as I know, a tree doesn't do anything but stand in the soil. It doesn't dig its own hole for planting, nor does it water itself. It doesn't have to work out to build up its roots. It doesn't have to focus on bearing fruit. The tree simply stands. And for me, a good reminder is that the tree stands still.

The tree in Jeremiah's story is even passively planted. The tree doesn't even decide where to stand. God plants the tree in a place of His choosing. But the place provides the perfect soil to develop deep roots. Being planted near the stream says that the water supply is unending. The roots will always have the water they need to run deep into the source of life, strength and health. The fruit bearing isn't even dependent on the tree trying harder. The fruit bearing is a direct result of the health of the roots, and the timing of the Lord. He knows the fruit, its purpose and its timing.

Trust isn't about your working harder to trust more. It is about resting in Him and letting Him feed the roots and produce the fruit in due season. Where has God planted you and are you trusting Him?

Where do you fall on the trust in the Lord scale?

What insights can you draw from the illustration of the tree?

Pray

Spend time in prayer using this passage as a guide.

DAY THREE - BUILT UP IN HIM

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 2:4–5 ESV

Scripture

Read 1 Peter 2:1–5

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 2:4–5 ESV**

The first word of the passage above gives us a clue that there is some background information that might be helpful as you study this passage. While the ESV begins with “so,” the NIV translation uses the word “therefore.” As Bible scholars, we know to always ask the question: What is the therefore, there for? In other words, there are context clues that set up the reasoning for the “therefore.”

In this passage, if we go back to the beginning of Peter’s letter “to God’s elect,” we find that he shares two pieces of encouraging information. In verses three through twelve, Peter shares that our new birth into the living hope we have is because of God’s great mercy and Jesus’ victory over death through His resurrection. We have an imperishable inheritance, kept in heaven for each of us. Although today’s journey may be difficult, we can look toward a coming day when Jesus Christ is revealed. This is the blessed hope of His coming return.

Peter continues in verses thirteen through the end of the chapter to give us encouragement to live holy lives. He calls us to a life of holiness, not because we are able but because of the grace that brought us salvation. We are encouraged to obey the truth so that we have a sincere love for one another. We have been born again — not with a perishable seed, but imperishable through the living and enduring Word of God.

Because of the hope we have in the completed work of Christ on the cross and His defeat of death in the empty tomb, we have a living hope and the power through the Holy Spirit to live a holy life.

Observations

How does verse 4 contrast the "living stone"?

What does Peter say about the "living stones"?

Who are the "living stones"?

Application

Peter is contrasting two different things in these two verses. First, He calls Jesus the Living Stone and tells us that although man rejects Jesus as the Living Stone, Almighty God considers Him to be chosen and precious. Reflect on how that contrast can impact how you experience Jesus. Record your thoughts.

The second contrast Peter makes involves you and I. While Jesus is the Living Stone, chosen and precious to God, he also refers to you and I being living stones. Consider the three phrases Peter uses to describe us. Spend some time reflecting on those three descriptions. How do those attributes in YOU make a difference in how you live your life today?

Pray

Spend time in prayer. Ask God to help deepen your understanding of how to be built up in Christ. Ask God to help you carry what you've learned here throughout the day as you interact with others, and serve Him with actions.

DAY FOUR - STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” **Ephesians 3:14–19 ESV**

Scripture

Read Ephesians 3:14–19

Paul is writing to the Ephesian church. He is encouraging them that the grace of God through Jesus Christ is now extended beyond the Jews to the Gentiles. He shares the hope and glory of the Gospel message. He is encouraging these new believers to be confident in God’s grace to them and through them to be bold and not be discouraged.

Observations

Who is the foundation of the faith of these believers?

Who has the benefit of God’s name?

What are the primary benefits of carrying His name?

What do you learn about love in these verses?

What does Paul say we are “filled with”?

Application

I like that Paul opens verse 14 by reminding us of a posture before God. How often do you bow the knee before the Father? Maybe physically, but I think we could also consider bowing our will before Him. Paul reminds us that God has done so much for us.

List everything you learn about God from these verses:

The word strength appears twice, as does the word love. At this point in the week, these may be two things that carry importance as you serve. God gives us supernatural strength to follow His calling through the power of the Holy Spirit. Maybe what you need today is physical strength to continue the tasks. Maybe you need spiritual strength and wisdom as you minister to those working alongside you. There are lots of superlatives in this passage. But they all seem to swirl around one thought. The incomprehensible, unfathomable, infinite supply of God’s love.

Pray

Ask God to help you be still for a few minutes. Ask Him to help you reflect on the verses you’ve encountered today. Ask Him to help you to soak them in and allow them to become a part of you. Ask Him if there is someone today for whom you need to pray strength and love over. Thank Him for the overwhelming vastness of His love for YOU.

DAY FIVE - OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS

“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:11–12 ESV

Scripture

Read 2 Corinthians 9:11–12

The context of this scripture finds the apostle Paul writing to the Corinthian church, commending them for their generosity. However, the gift they had agreed to give was yet to be collected, and Paul seemed to need a bit of assurance that they were as zealous when releasing the gift as they were when pledging it. He needed to send someone ahead to make sure. The point was not to exact a collection from the Corinthian church, but to use this as a teachable moment for the Macedonians. He wanted them to be encouraged by the cheerful generosity Paul had observed among the Corinthian congregation.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6–10, Paul teaches the concept of sowing and reaping. Sowing generously provides a bountiful harvest. Sowing sparingly reaps a lesser harvest. But Paul also brought the focus back to the reason to give. It is God who supplies our needs most generously, giving us the opportunity to share what we have with others. If you read these few verses, you see the superlatives Paul uses to describe the generosity of God and His grace. This provides the foundation for today's passage.

Observations

Record everything you learn about generosity in this passage:

What does Paul have to say about thanksgiving?

Application

Scattered throughout my home and office are simple reminders of the transformative power of daily gratitude. I had someone share something just last week that caused me to stop and ponder. She mentioned that although she had been a Christ-follower for a very long time, she tries to stop every day and thank God for her gift of salvation through what Jesus did on the cross. It made me realize that I always have something to be grateful for. If nothing else, I have the promise of an eternity in heaven with Jesus. Not because of what I did for Him, but because of what He did for me.

Consider this week's work as an act of worship. You have been given the ability, time, resources, and desire to spend lots of sweat equity improving the lives of a family. Spend some time considering what God has done for you that has uniquely equipped you for the task you are generously pouring out for others. Record your thoughts.

Pray

Let today's prayer time be simply a time of expressing gratitude for all God has done for you. Write down what you are grateful for.

DAY SIX - BUILT TOGETHER

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV

Scripture

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

It is beautiful that God uses family as the structure for His people. On this side of heaven, we don't know all the other people who are in the family of God. There are those who we are related to through Jesus who are complete strangers. But Paul does a beautiful job of reminding us that we are no longer strangers to each other. Because of Christ, we are all members of the household of God.

We learn in the New Testament that the physical structure of the temple in Israel is no longer the place where the presence of God dwells. The individual believer becomes the temple where the presence of God dwells by the person of the Holy Spirit. And together, we are all the holy temple of the Lord. We are the dwelling place of the Spirit of God.

Observations

What does Paul say we are built upon?

What do you learn about the structure from this passage?

Application

I like thinking about this passage this week because we have a physical example of building a dwelling. We started with a foundation and are building a structure that will provide a wonderful home for a family. While the structure Paul is describing isn't necessarily a physical place, it is a structure that houses God's Spirit. Think about what that means for you personally. Consider how God has gifted you with talents, experiences, knowledge, personality, Spiritual Gifts, and how He wants to use you as the dwelling of the very presence of God. How can you best express His Spirit personally?

Pray

Ask God to give you insights into how He wants you to apply today's passage to your own personal journey. For today, how does He want you to share His presence with someone who crosses your path?

DAY SEVEN - ENDURANCE

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9 ESV

Scripture

Read Galatians 6:1-9

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

⁶ Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **Galatians 6:1-9 ESV**

Observations

Who is Paul addressing? (hint: believers or the lost?)

What does Paul encourage the “brothers” to do? (there is a list)

What attitude does Paul encourage each one to have?

How is Paul using the example of sowing and reaping in this passage?

If you could describe verse 9 with one word, what might that be?

Application

We have come to the middle of the week(s) at Women's Build. As we work, many may be growing weary. Hard work and hot days. Perhaps even differing ideas on how something is to be done.

I don't know about you, but today's lesson seems to be focused on one topic: One-anothering. What can you do today to encourage one of your team members? Has God put someone on your heart this week that you've been praying for? Have you had a conversation with someone that gives you an idea of something they may be struggling with or a life situation that is difficult or wearisome? I just recently watched my Mom step into glory after a long, difficult few months. I know that in the midst of the journey with her, I still had life to live. A job. A family. Grandkids. Grown kids. My Dad. Lots of things all together. I know how much I needed my work family during this season to just be there for me when I grew weary. Spend some time reflecting on what "one-anothering" means to you.

Be intentional today and listen for God's whisper. Check on your team members. Be aware of who may need a word of encouragement.

Pray

Spend time in prayer asking God to show you someone today who needs you to come alongside. Ask God to give you wisdom in how to best encourage them on their journey.

DAY EIGHT - SERVING HUMBLY

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3–4 ESV

Scripture

Read Philippians 2:1–11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Philippians 2:1–11 ESV**

Observations

List the “so if’s” from verse 1:

What does Paul say to do with these attributes?

What does he contrast in verse 3?

Who is our focus in verse 4?

List what Paul tells us about the "mind of Christ":

What do you learn about Jesus in verses 9–11?

Application

This passage is a great follow-up from our discussion of 'one-anothering' yesterday. Jesus is the ultimate example of being a servant. Spend some time reflecting on this passage and record your thoughts on how God may be calling you to apply it to your own personal experience.

Pray

Ask God to give you a humble spirit and clarity in how He is calling you to serve others.

DAY NINE - STRENGTH THROUGH JOY

"Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10 ESV

Scripture

Read Nehemiah 8:10

Observations

What three things are "they" instructed to do?

Why are they instructed to do that?

The last sentence contrasts two things. What are they?

What do we learn about the source of strength?

Application

This verse, in context, is intended for the children of Israel. As you may remember, Persian King Artaxerxes I allowed a remnant of the previously exiled Israelites to return to Jerusalem. Nehemiah the prophet was a cupbearer to the King, which allowed him close access

to the King. Nehemiah had received word that Jerusalem remained in ruins after the Babylonian destruction in 586BC.

He spent time in prayer and fasting, seeking the Lord for how to remedy the pain of what he had heard. The King noticed his heaviness of heart, and allowed Nehemiah to leave with any of the Israelites who wanted to accompany him, return to Jerusalem, and restore the city's wall.

Zerubbel was allowed to return and rebuild the temple; Ezra the prophet read the scrolls and reminded the people of Who their God was and "rebuilt" the hearts of the people, and Nehemiah returned to rebuild the wall around the city.

Although they had an edict from the King, the local authorities were none too pleased that the city was being restored, so they incited violence against Nehemiah and the remnant that chose to return and rebuild.

It was in the midst of the struggle that Nehemiah shared these words of encouragement. Each family was to rebuild the portion of the wall behind their dwelling. However, they ended up with a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other as they had to fight off their enemies as they rebuilt. This is the background to Nehemiah's words in 8:10.

Considering what you know about the background of this verse, how can you apply it to your own life? How can you apply it to the build this week? I know we aren't literally fighting enemies as we build. Thank goodness. But are there obstacles that seek to distract or take us off course? Are there things this week that have stolen your heart for ministering to the team and our friends at the build site? What are some truths about God you can take away from this verse? Record your reflections below.

Pray

Ask God to keep you focused, even as we finish and leave to return home. How can you continue to be a part of this community and family even after returning home? Ask God to remind you of how you can pray for what you've left behind.

DAY TEN - PURPOSEFUL LABOR

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV

Scripture

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50–58

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. **1 Corinthians 15:50–58 ESV**

Observations

What do you learn about the perishable in this passage?

What do you learn about the imperishable?

What is the mystery in verse 51?

What does this passage teach about death?

Who gives us victory over death?

What is the encouragement in verse 58?

Application

This is one of the most encouraging passages in all of Scripture. Paul pulls back the veil and reveals what has been a mystery for millennia. What has been promised throughout Scripture yet hidden; what God commends His followers for believing without fully knowing; what the apostle John is finally able to reveal in the closing chapter of the Book. Paul encourages the Corinthian church with this revealed mystery.

Death isn't the end. In fact, for the Christ-follower it is really just the beginning. Death will not hold us. The grave does not stop us. We will all, both sleeping and alive at the time of Jesus coming in the clouds to reclaim His bride, the Church, be made new. The old, perishable, sinful, broken, dying body that houses our spirit will be changed in a millisecond. We will be given an imperishable, sinless, renewed home for our spirit. And what seemed so important in the temporal will fade quickly into the realization of the victory Christ purchased for each of us on the cross. And then comes the revelation of the glorious day of resurrection. He was the firstborn from the grave and showed us the reality of our own resurrection.

I hope right now, your heartbeat has quickened as you ponder YOUR future as a follower of Jesus. Whatever is difficult or painful today will dissolve into a glorious victory when your earthly time comes to an end.

What you did this week was an investment in your heavenly treasures. How you ministered this week, in His Name and through His Power, is providing an avenue for others to experience the glory of victory over death.

As the Women's Build comes to an end, I hope you will reflect on how God used you to make a difference for His Kingdom. Spend some time recording your thoughts, praises, and intercessions as a result of your investment on the border.

Pray

Thank God for all He did through your obedience this week. Pray that the seeds you sowed will be watered, nurtured, and tended by others coming along behind you. Thank God that He began a good work in you, and will continue to develop it until His chosen time to complete it. All for His glory.



For additional missional disciple-making
Bible studies, visit wmutx.org/mentoring.