

# BUILDING *to* LAST

SESSION 3 HOW ARE WE BUILDING?

***Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.***

(Matthew 7:24-27)

1. Testing is inevitable

***Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you*** (1 Pet. 4:12)

2. Testing is intense

***And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house...***  
(Matt. 7:25)

3. Testing is indispensable

***Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*** (Matt. 7:21-23)

*The ways we are most often tested in our faithfulness to Jesus and to one another through our marriages:*

1. Conflict
2. Suffering/Hardships
3. Children

## **Assignments through January**

1. **For Men:** “*How to Exasperate Your Wives*” by Douglas Wilson (available at bookstore, digitally at Kindle, or as audio book at Audible)
  - **Share with wife** how this book is helping/challenging you...several times over the course of the book. Even have her read certain paragraphs/chapters that really struck you, then discuss why!
2. **For Women:** “*Eve In Exile*” by Rebekah Merkle (available at bookstore, digitally at Kindle, or as audio book at Audible)
  - **Share with husband** how this book is helping/challenging you...several times over the course of the book. Even have him read certain paragraphs/chapters that really struck you, then discuss why!
3. **For both:** listen to sermons **together**, then discuss:
  - “Staying Married” sermon by Mike Bullmore:  
<https://cwc.church/media/rtnrrq5/staying-married>
  - “Dying Married” sermon by Mike Bullmore:  
<https://cwc.church/media/32ngqmc/dying-married>
4. Pray **together**, daily.