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**MEETING AGENDA**

**WELCOME (10 MINUTES)**

This week we are continuing our series *Building Blocks* where we are learning from Peter the importance of actively building our foundation of faith. This week we will focus on how a foundation of spiritual qualities helps us keep our balance in our spiritual life.

Don’t forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

**ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)**

If you wear or used to wear glasses, are you or were you nearsighted or farsighted?

**INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)**

Anchor Verses: 2 Peter 1:9-10

This week we will focus on how a foundation of spiritual qualities helps us keep our balance in our spiritual life.

**INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)**

1. **Read 1 Peter 1:3-4, Ephesians 1:11-14, and Colossians 1:9-12. We need to remember the importance of a spiritual foundation and rehearse the “building blocks” of that foundation. What connections do you see between our spiritual foundation and the inheritance God has promised to believers?**

***H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE***

*[Answers will vary**.* *Our spiritual foundation of faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love helps us take hold of the “living hope” we have in Jesus. As we follow Jesus by building these qualities, we also “obtain our inheritance,” which is these qualities! God works in us through the Holy Spirit to help us and build a spiritual foundation in our lives as we follow Him.]*

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Matthew 19:28-30, and Matthew 5:10-12. This week we learned that the closer we get to Jesus, the more we will hate what we used to love, the more this world will not work for us, and the more people without Jesus won’t understand us. Which of these do you find you struggle the most with in building your spiritual foundation?**

***H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE***

*[Answers will vary. Building your spiritual foundation can be hard when you feel weak, no longer live in a way that makes sense to some people, or face judgement or even persecution from others. Despite these struggles, we can find confidence in the fact that it is God who strengthens us, that we are blessed for our choice to follow God, and that we can rejoice when we face judgement or persecution because we are part of a family of believers who have also faced these struggles.]*

**APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)**

1. **This week Pastor David Smith talked about “spiritual nearsightedness,” which means that when we lack the qualities of a spiritual foundation, we fixate on the one thing in front of us at the expense of everything else and we lose sight that we have been forgiven. When this happens, we lose our balance when trying to take steps in faith. Have you ever experienced “spiritual nearsightedness?” How did you “lose your balance” in your faith? What helped you regain your focus?**

***H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE***

*[Answers will vary. Sometimes trials in our lives can cause us to develop “spiritual nearsightedness” and other times simply the hard things of life can cause us to lose our focus. As we try to build a spiritual foundation, this makes it hard or even impossible to step forward because we forget the extent of God’s love for us. Remembering the truths that God loves us and has forgiven us through things like prayer, reading the Bible, and spending time in community can help us regain our focus and keep our balance as we take steps in faith.]*

1. **Read** **Romans 8:31-39. We need to actively build our spiritual foundation and know who we are in Christ so we don’t have an identity crisis! How does the promise in these verses help us remember who we are and encourage us when we face struggles in building spiritual qualities? Can you think of any other verses that encourage us as we build our spiritual foundation?** 

***H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE***

*[Answers will vary. Romans 8 promises us that if we are believers, God is with us and works on our behalf. No matter what struggle we face, God’s love holds us steady and we cannot be separated from Him. We can be confident in His love and know that He is with us as we build our spiritual foundation. Verses like John 14:26 also remind us of the power of the Holy Spirit and how God works in us to remind us of the truth.]*

1. **Read Romans 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:7, and Hebrews 11:1. Pastor David Smith reminded us that if we are not growing in the qualities of a spiritual foundation, we will face crippling doubt. How does God’s love help us resist doubt and walk in faith?**

 ***H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE***

*[Answers will vary. God’s love grants us salvation through faith and we can be sure of and rejoice in this fact! No matter the doubt we face, God’s love for us and the assurance of our salvation never changes. However, when we do face doubt, growing in the qualities of our spiritual foundation helps us take our next right step and stand firm in our faith. We don’t live in our own strength, but God’s, and can move forward even when we face doubt because our faith is in Him—and HE knows the outcome of our situation even when we don’t.]*

***PRAYER (10 MINUTES)***

*Dear heavenly Father**,*

*Thank you for loving us and reminding us that no matter what struggles or doubt we face, our faith is found in You. You work in us as we follow You to help us build a firm foundation of spiritual qualities, so please help us keep our focus on You. When we develop “spiritual nearsightedness,” please remind us of Your goodness and love, and help us regain our focus so we keep our balance as we take steps of faith. It is only in You that we find our confidence and strength.*

*We pray all these things in Your excellent name. Amen.*