

STUDY GUIDE

Monday, May 3- Saturday, May 8

Monday, May 3 – How many of us are using our resources to build a permanent foundation beneath our sandcastles? If we truly want to leave an eternally enduring legacy, then we need to look beyond our home, our investment portfolio, and our heirloom jewelry. If we're going to leave a legacy that the waves of time can't wash away, we need to do an on-site inspection of the life we are currently building. We must honestly evaluate the castle we're constructing to make sure it's not made of sinking sand. This may be the greatest secret to leaving a legacy of substance: try to understand what the Lord wants you to do – and do it. Obey God, because He gives you just enough time to do everything you need to do. What obstacles keep you from always obeying God promptly? **Read Psalm 119:60.** What might you do to overcome one of those obstacles?

Tuesday, May 4 – Every day, every moment, with every action, you're planting something. So the question is, what exactly are you planting? What is the cumulative effect of your words, actions, and intentions on those around you and those ahead of you? What harvest will be reaped from all that you plant day in and day out? From the outside, it may be difficult to discern between a seed and a pebble. But, of course, inside they're vastly different. There is life in the seed; there is nothing but rock inside a pebble. The seed has power and potential in it; it produces life. Unfortunately, some of us spend our time planting rocks – no potential, no life, no fruit. What did you do this last week that will last for the rest of the year? For ten years? For eternity? Read the parable of the sower in **Matthew 13:1-23.** Which type of soil describes your heart at the moment?

Wednesday, May 5 – All of us desire to leave a legacy, to know that we mattered. And our legacy is determined by how we spend our days. Will our influence last beyond our lifetime? Paul was well aware of the correlation between the building materials we use and the quality of the construction. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:12-14.** Every day we get to choose the materials – either temporary or eternal – with which we will build our lives.

Thursday, May 6 – We get to choose which path we take in life. We can travel in God's direction, or we can chart our own course and try to make it on our own. We can drive the car empowered by His will or the one fueled by our will. When I choose to drive my own car and make all my decisions without consulting Him it's like heading the wrong way down a one-way street. It ends in a collision with God, which isn't pretty. Only when we allow Him to direct us can we leave a lasting impact. **Read Proverbs 3:5-6.** What happens when we make God our heart's greatest delight? **Read Deuteronomy 4:29-31; Psalms 42-43; Philippians 1:18-26 and 3:1-14.** Why does God consider it so important that we commit to the Person, not just the plan? **Read 1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 16:5, 71:23-26, 119:57 and John 17:3**

Friday, May 7 – When we recognize the power of one – when we focus on the personal needs of individuals – we'll find ourselves transformed and we'll impact lives for eternity. The problem comes when we start thinking happiness means being safe and comfortable and when our goal in life becomes the avoidance of all risk. When our top priority is to be safe and secure, we lose touch not just with the needs of others but with a primary need of our own. We were created for so much more than punching buttons and scrolling screens. We were created for a grand adventure! God designed us to take great risks and face huge challenges, to accomplish mighty goals that will have a lasting impact. If you discovered you only had one month to live and you began considering how you could leave a lasting global legacy, you might be tempted to think, *It's too late. I don't have the money or power needed to make a difference in this world.* But never underestimate the power of one. It's the ability each of us has, every day, to be used by God to bless the rest of the world. Think of some concrete situations in which God might use you in expected or unexpected ways. **Read Acts 8:26-39 and 1 Peter 4:10-11.**

Saturday, May 8. We want to be good stewards of our planet because of the responsibility that God has entrusted to us regarding His creation. But while we look for ways to decrease our environmental footprint, we should seek to increase our spiritual footprint. We need to make the most positive, the most lasting imprint on people's lives possible. To do that, we have to get incredibly intentional about the kind of impression we're making on other people's lives. According to the following passages, in what ways does God's grace manifest itself in both incredible power and infinite love? **Romans 8:12-14, 13:13-14; 1 Peter 2:11-12; 2 Peter 1:3-4 and Jude 1:24-25.** When we're in the atmosphere of God's grace and feel totally accepted, we crave change. We want to know Him and be more like Him. What are a few ways God's empowering grace might work in your life? **Read John 1:17; Acts 4:33, 6:8; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 3:10 & 15:10; 2 Corinthians 1:12.**

