

# BUILD

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for participating in the BUILD ministry of River Oaks Community Church. This ministry began with a simple vision: to enable men to develop as spiritual leaders for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Being a leader does not mean you must be a public speaker. We lead primarily by example, by the way we live. Leadership has to do with the way we influence others for the honor and glory of Jesus Christ. Leadership occurs in the home, in the workplace, in the church and wherever we have the opportunity to interact with others.

“BUILD” is an acronym for biblical understanding, intercessory prayer (prayer for others), and leadership development. The first goal of the BUILD ministry is to help each man grow in his understanding of God’s Word, the Bible. This includes a growing understanding of how to read, study, and interpret the Scriptures. A second goal is to become a man of prayer. Men will be encouraged to be intercessors for their families, church, co-workers, and nation. Thirdly, through interaction with your BUILD group, each man will be better equipped for spiritual leadership in the home, church (for example, as a small group leader), and workplace.

How does it work? A BUILD team consists of four or five men, one of whom is the group leader. The group will meet weekly at a time of their choosing for 1 – 1 ½ hours for a period of twelve weeks. Time together will include discussion of a passage of Scripture, review of Scripture memorized, prayer for each man’s spiritual development and encouragement in his devotional life and spiritual leadership. Note: The focus of a BUILD group is on spiritual growth and maturity. The group should not become a counseling session, or attempt to take on other purposes.

What happens when the twelve-week period is over? The BUILD ministry is based on 2 Timothy 2:2: the mature Christian disciples those who have potential, so they in turn can disciple others. If, after twelve weeks, a participant is not ready to lead a group himself, it is fine to participate in a different group the next semester. It is hoped that each man will have a goal of eventually leading a BUILD group. Much spiritual development occurs when we have experience of leading others.

What commitment is required?

- You commit to reading the Bible daily (10 minutes or at least one chapter) during the twelve-week BUILD semester. You will also be asked to memorize several passages of Scripture during the semester.
- You commit to spending at least 5 minutes daily in prayer. You also agree to pray daily for the other members of your BUILD team.
- Each man commits to honoring God by the way he lives.
- Participants agree to meet weekly with their BUILD team for 60-90 minutes. The team will agree upon a time which is convenient for all.

Why make such a significant commitment? Because there is simply no greater purpose in life than to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and to help others to know Him. By developing as leaders we will grow closer to the Lord and become more fruitful in our ministry to others.

Thank you for your interest in the BUILD ministry. May God richly bless your spiritual development so you can flourish as a leader!

## My Commitment as a Participant in the BUILD Ministry

With God's help, I commit to:

- Meet weekly with my BUILD group for 12 weeks.
- Read the Bible for a minimum of 10 minutes/day during the twelve-week period. I will memorize the assigned verses and review them during the semester.
- Spend a minimum of 5 minutes/day in prayer during the BUILD semester. I agree to pray daily for the spiritual development of the other members of my BUILD group.
- Seek to live in such a way as to honor Jesus Christ and represent Him well before others.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## KEYS TO EFFECTIVE READING AND STUDY OF GOD'S WORD

- Obtain a version of the Bible that you are comfortable reading. The NIV, NAS, ESV, and NKJV are all good translations. A good study Bible (such as the ESV Study Bible) will provide much helpful background on passages, as well as explanatory comments.
- Have a regular daily time for Bible reading.
- Have a plan. That is, read through an entire book to keep everything in its proper context. If you've never read the New Testament, consider starting at Matthew and reading through all 27 books. (This will probably take more than twelve weeks!)

**BUILDING BLOCK 1**  
**The Leader as a Follower of Jesus Christ**

Read: John 3:1-18  
Ephesians 2:1-10

To become a follower of Jesus Christ is to become, in the words of Jesus, “born again” (John 3:3). The apostle Paul refers to this inward spiritual transformation as being “saved” (Ephesians 2:8). Why is this salvation necessary, and how does it occur?

To answer these questions, it is important to understand what the Bible teaches us about:

- **God** - There is one God who exists eternally in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This Christian understanding of God is known as “the Trinity.” God is all powerful, all knowing, and present everywhere. He is the Creator of all that exists. He is absolutely holy. He is perfect and entirely without sin.
- **Sin and Humanity** - Sin is any disobedience toward God. Since the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, every person has been sinful by nature. Romans 3:10 tells us, “There is no one righteous, not even one.” Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” In Ephesians 2:1, the apostle Paul describes our spiritual condition prior to salvation as being “dead in your transgression and sins.”

Because God is absolutely holy, our sin presents an impassable barrier between Him and us. No amount of good deeds or intentions on our part can bridge this barrier. God himself has bridged the barrier through Jesus.

- **Jesus Christ** - The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was not merely a good person, teacher, or prophet. He was actually God. The Gospel of John opens with these words, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:1-3).

Jesus, God the Son, took upon himself human flesh. The Bible describes His incarnation in Philippians 2:6-8, “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross.”

Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. 1 Peter 2:24 says, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.” 1 Peter 3:18 states, “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”

The justice of God required that there be a penalty for our sins. The mercy of God resolved that Jesus would pay that penalty.

- **Salvation** - Our salvation is based solely upon the grace of God and not upon our good works, efforts, or merits. Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved." The Holy Spirit enables us to place our faith in Jesus Christ for our salvation. As Ephesians 2:8-9 states, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast."

When we place our faith in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation, we receive Him into our lives. John 1:12-13 says, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." This is what it means to be "born again."

Why do you think Jesus said a person must be "born again" to enter God's kingdom?

What do you think it means to receive Jesus Christ?

Have you made the decision to receive Him as your Savior and Lord?

Take 3 or 4 minutes to honestly share with the group where you think you are in your spiritual life (e.g., still investigating Christianity, assured of salvation, uncertain).

Memorize: Ephesians 2:8-9

**BUILDING BLOCK 2**  
**The Humility of the Leader**

Read: Philippians 2:1-11

How did Jesus humble himself?

In what ways are we to be like Jesus?

How would our living this way affect our closest relationships?

How can I apply the instruction of vv. 3-5 to my life this week?

Memorize: Philippians 2:3-4

**BUILDING BLOCK 3**  
**The Leader as a Servant**

Read: John 13:1-17

Why was Peter so shocked that Jesus would wash his feet?

What did Jesus mean by His response to Peter in verses 7 and 8?

What is the main leadership lesson in Jesus' example in this passage?

How can you apply this lesson in:

- your home?
- your church?
- your workplace?

Memorize: Matthew 23:11-12

**BUILDING BLOCK 4**  
**The Leader as a Man of Prayer**  
**Part 1**

Read: Matthew 6:5-15

What does this passage tell you about the right attitude for effective prayer?

What topics for prayer do you see in this model prayer that we know as the Lord's Prayer?

Why do you think Jesus stressed the part about forgiving others in this passage on prayer?

- Is there someone you need to forgive?

Discuss with your team how you currently pray. Are you comfortable praying out loud?

- If married, do you pray with your wife?

- What steps can you take to have a more effective prayer life?

Memorize the Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 6:9-13)

**BUILDING BLOCK 5**  
**The Leader as a Man of Prayer**  
**Part 2**

Read: Ephesians 1:15-19(a)  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
Philippians 1:9-11  
Colossians 1:9-12  
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

The passages above are prayers prayed by the apostle Paul for the early church. List some of the things he prays for.

What seems to be the focus of these prayers for other Christians?

How could these prayers help you in the development of your prayer life?

Memorize: Ephesians 1:17

**BUILDING BLOCK 6**  
**The Leader as a Man of Prayer**  
**Part 3**

Read: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

What responsibility is given us here in regard to prayer?

What impact can our prayers have on our society?

Why do you think men are especially reminded to pray?

Read: 1 John 5:14-15

How can we pray with confidence?

How can we know whether we are praying according to God's will?

Memorize: 1 John 5:14-15

**BUILDING BLOCK 7**  
**The Leader Who Lives in the Light**

Read: Ephesians 4:17 – 5:7

Why is it important to live in holiness when we know Jesus Christ?

What do you think is the meaning of: “Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry” (4:26)?

What are the criteria for wholesome speech?

How can one possibly live as this passage instructs us?

Memorize: Ephesians 4:26-27

**BUILDING BLOCK 8**  
**The Leader and the Holy Spirit**

Read: John 14:15-27  
John 16:12-15  
Acts 1:8

Though it is a difficult concept to understand, the Bible clearly teaches that God is one God who exists as three separate persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This explains the command to baptize in the name (singular) of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). The Holy Spirit is as much God as the Father is and as Jesus is. However, He functions in His own unique role as the third person of the Trinity.

What titles did Jesus give the Holy Spirit?

What work does the Holy Spirit do in and on behalf of Christians?

Why does He give us power?

How are you seeking the fullness of His power in your life?

Memorize: Acts 1:8

**BUILDNG BLOCK 9**  
**The Spirit-Filled Leader**

Read: Ephesians 5:18-33

The command to be filled with the Holy Spirit implies an ongoing filling. What are the marks of a Spirit-filled person?

How can the Holy Spirit help us to submit to one another?

How can He help two Christians to have a successful marriage?

What specific instruction is given to Christian husbands?

How can a man possibly do this? (see Romans 5:5)

Have you asked the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit?

These steps might be helpful:

1. Verbally acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.
2. Confess any known sin in your life, receiving God's cleansing and forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)
3. Acknowledge your complete dependence upon the Lord and yield your will to His control.
4. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit.
5. Accept the Spirit's fullness by faith. Thank the Lord for filling you with His Spirit.
6. Be open to receiving any of the spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit may bring to your life. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). These gifts are not to be feared, but eagerly desired (1 Corinthians 14:1).

Memorize: Ephesians 5:18

**BUILDNG BLOCK 10**  
**The Leader as a Witness**

Read: Acts 1:8  
Romans 1:14-17  
Romans 10:14-15  
1 Peter 3:15

What do you think it means to be a witness for Jesus Christ?

What does the apostle Paul mean by his statement about the gospel in Romans 1:16?

Could you explain the gospel to someone else?

How would you do that?

One simple way to remember the gospel is:

God's plan – to know Him and experience eternal life. **John 17:3**

Our Problem – sin, which separates us from God. **Romans 3:10, 3:23**

God's Solution – Jesus Christ. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He rose from the dead that we might be raised to eternal life. **John 14:6**

Our Response – to receive Jesus by faith. **John 1:12**

Memorize: Romans 1:16

**BUILDING BLOCK 11**  
**Leadership in the Church**

Read: 1 Timothy 3:1-13  
1 Peter 5:1-4

What are the qualifications for an overseer (elder) or deacon?

Why must one manage his own household well before becoming a leader in the church?

What does it mean to have a good reputation with “outsiders”?

How does a godly Christian leader influence others? (1 Peter 5:3)

How do you think God might want to use you in leadership in His church?

Review all Scripture memorized so far:

- Ephesians 2:8-9
  
- Philippians 2:3-4
  
- Matthew 23:11-12
  
- Matthew 6:9-13
  
- Ephesians 1:17
  
- 1 John 5 5:14-15
  
- Ephesians 4:26-27
  
- Acts 1:8
  
- Ephesians 5:18
  
- Romans 1:16

**BUILDING BLOCK 12**  
**The Leader that Lasts**

Read: Deuteronomy 6:1-9  
Matthew 22:34-40

Someone has wisely said, “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

For the Christian leader, the main thing is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. It is possible to become so preoccupied with good things in life that we lose sight of this. Therefore, we must continually check our priorities in life and consider how we are using our time.

How would you rate your love for God at this point in your life?

Do you feel your faith is growing?

Why?

How has your relationship with God changed as a result of being part of a BUILD group?

What steps can you take to keep growing?

Would you consider leading a BUILD group at some point?

Spend time praying for each man’s relationship with the Lord.

Review all Scripture memorized:

- Ephesians 2:8-9
  
- Philippians 2:3-4
  
- Matthew 23:11-12
  
- Matthew 6:9-13
  
- Ephesians 1:17
  
- 1 John 5 5:14-15
  
- Ephesians 4:26-27
  
- Acts 1:8
  
- Ephesians 5:18
  
- Romans 1:16