Season 2 • Episode 2

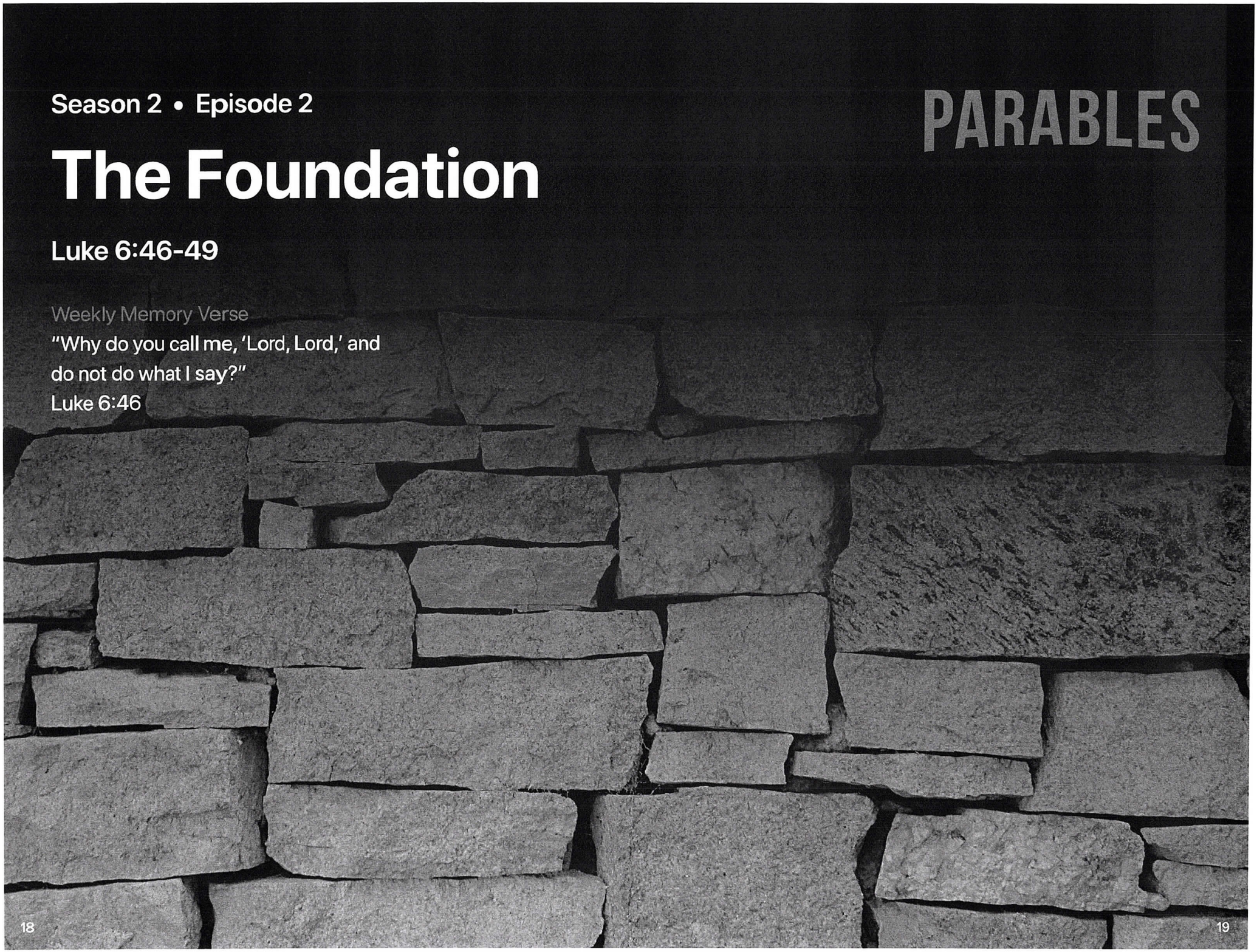
PARABLES

The Foundation

Luke 6:46-49

Weekly Memory Verse

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
Luke 6:46



Welcome (5 minutes)

Welcome back! I hope you had some time last week to think about the amazing gift God's Word is to us and how important it is that we hear what God is saying to us through Scripture.

Let's open with prayer.

Let's Get Started (10 minutes)

Before we begin, it would be great to have some of you tell us about a time this past week when you noticed that your hearing was sharper. When, for instance, were you aware of God using his Word to teach you, guide you, or bless you?

As you may have noticed, this week's memory verse is Luke 6:46—"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" Early in the video Ray will address that verse, focusing on the term *lord*, a term somewhat foreign to those of us on this side of the Pond.

Let's watch the video.

Let's Learn (15 minutes)

WATCH VIDEO

As we watch Episode 2, use the space below for notes, questions, and comments you want to bring up during the discussion.

Notes:

Let's Talk (20 minutes)

1. What evidence do we see that the crowd is close to fully recognizing who Jesus is? What does Jesus want from people who follow him? (Feel free to use terms from the parable.)

2. What foundations for life does our American culture offer us? Brainstorm a handful.

3. According to Jesus' parable, foundations for life fall into two categories. What are the two that you and I can choose from? What are the advantages of both? The disadvantages?

4. In this parable, Jesus taught that the solid foundation for life is putting into practice the truths and commandments of God's Word. Why is our putting beliefs into practice vital when we profess our faith in Jesus?

5. Jesus doesn't want people calling him "Lord"—or any other title of respect—if they don't actually believe what they're saying or living it out. What does Ray mean by Jesus not wanting a Judas kiss (Matthew 26:47-49)? In what ways can you and I—on occasion—be guilty of offering Jesus a Judas kiss? Be specific.

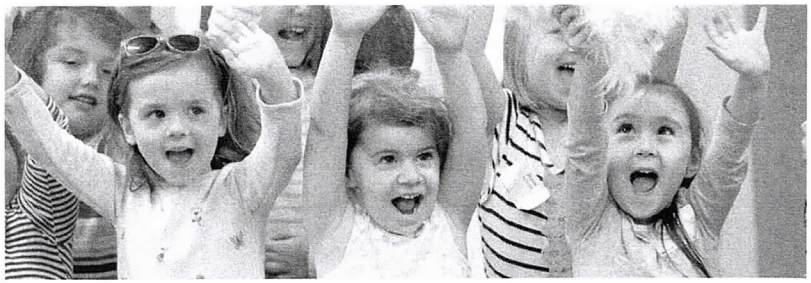
6. Think about Episode 1's discussion of hearing. Which kind of hearing do you see in Luke 6:47? Which kind in verse 49? Comment on the consequences.

    - Why is that a reasonable expectation?

7. Storms hit everyone.

    - Why does remembering that storms don't pick and choose their victims help us accept life's tough times?
    - Perhaps more important, what can followers of Jesus do today to prepare for life's storms tomorrow? Together, let's come up with several options.

8. Jesus teaches that the foundation for Christians is practicing His Word. What is the most difficult part of practicing for you? Getting started? Staying focused? Finishing well?



Let's Go Deeper

(Optional 15 minutes in group or individually at home)

1. What role does God the Holy Spirit have in helping you practice God's word?

2. Think about one of the worst storms you've ever experienced. In what specific ways was Jesus your Rock? Or, if you weren't yet walking with him, how would the relationship you have with him now have helped you weather that storm?

3. What do you do—or what can you do—to remember to do foundation maintenance and upkeep when you don't see any storm clouds on the horizon?

4. Ray imagines Jesus saying, "Calling me 'Lord' is close, but it's not close enough."

    - Close enough to what?
    - And—as we touched on above—what does Jesus require from those who genuinely and sincerely call him "Lord"?

5. Who in your life have you seen weather a storm in a way that glorified God? What did you respect about that person's response to the darkness? What did you learn? If appropriate and possible, write that person a note or send him/her a text saying how much you appreciated the encouraging example.

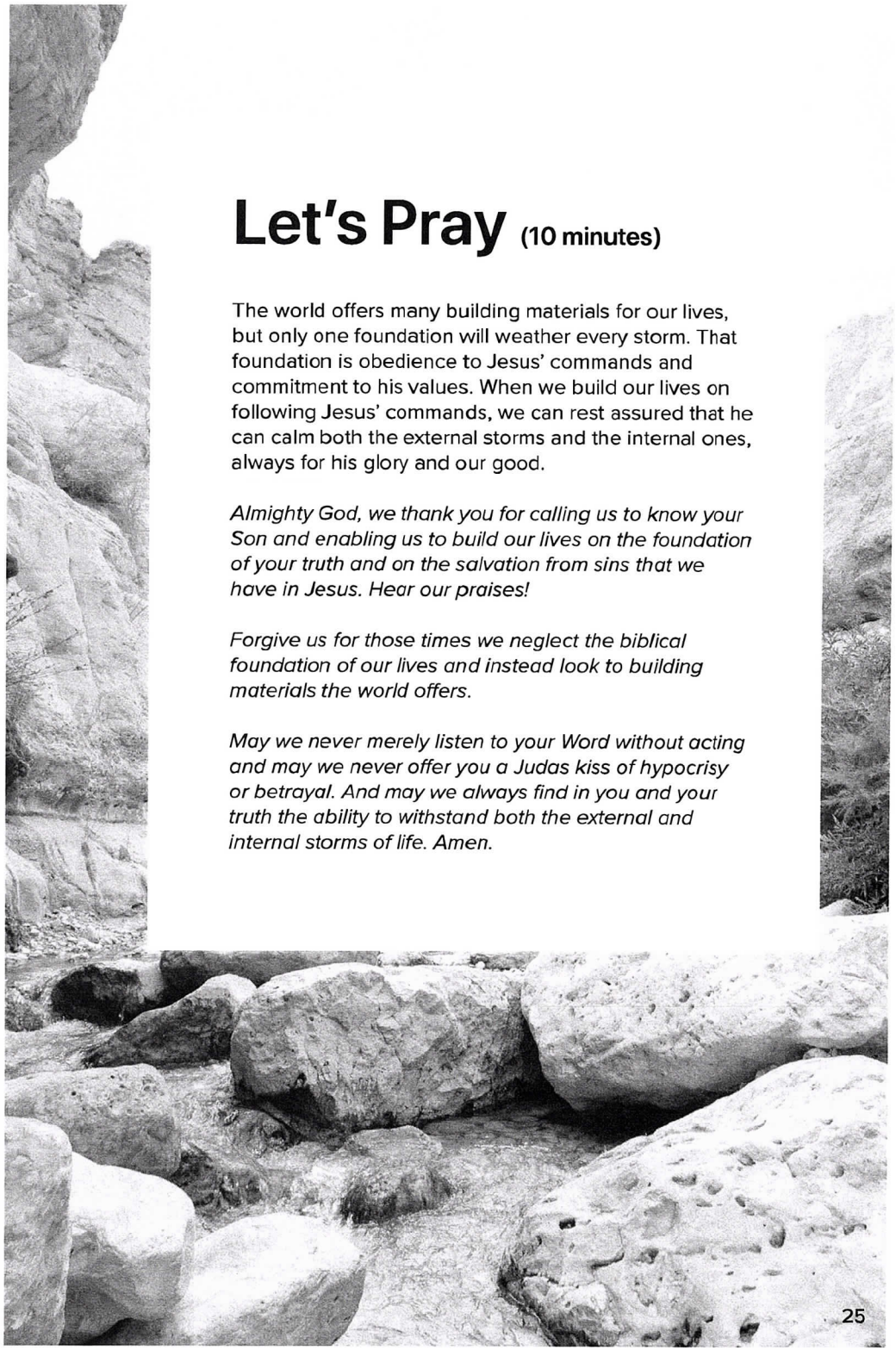
Let's Pray (10 minutes)

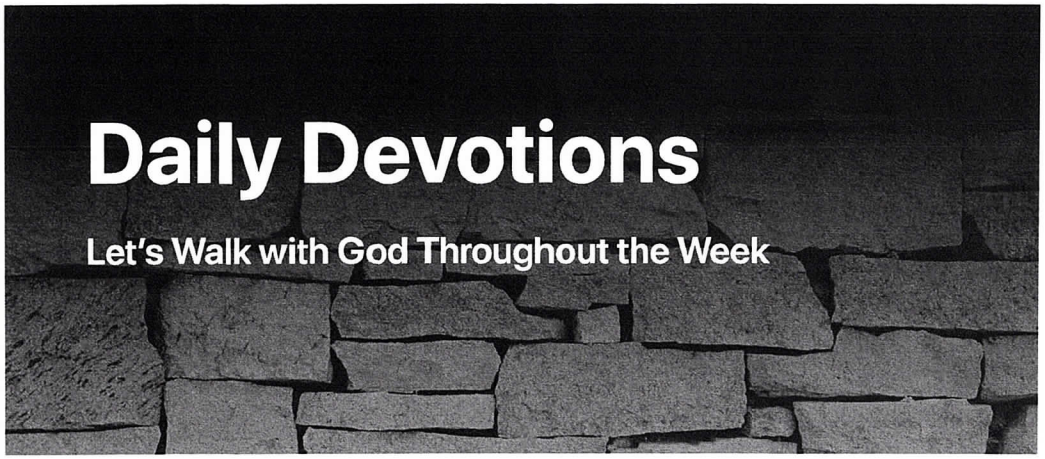
The world offers many building materials for our lives, but only one foundation will weather every storm. That foundation is obedience to Jesus' commands and commitment to his values. When we build our lives on following Jesus' commands, we can rest assured that he can calm both the external storms and the internal ones, always for his glory and our good.

Almighty God, we thank you for calling us to know your Son and enabling us to build our lives on the foundation of your truth and on the salvation from sins that we have in Jesus. Hear our praises!

Forgive us for those times we neglect the biblical foundation of our lives and instead look to building materials the world offers.

May we never merely listen to your Word without acting and may we never offer you a Judas kiss of hypocrisy or betrayal. And may we always find in you and your truth the ability to withstand both the external and internal storms of life. Amen.





Daily Devotions

Let's Walk with God Throughout the Week

Day 1

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Psalm 127:1

Reflect: In what ways is God building the house of your life? Put differently, in what ways are you partnering with him in laying and/or maintaining the strong foundation of your life?

Day 2

Encourage one another and build up one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Reflect: Few buildings, if any, have been raised by a foreman and a single worker. Who has been on your construction team? Who has built you up? Who has helped strengthen the foundation of your life? And who are you helping?

Day 3

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22

Reflect: What kind of self-deception can result from just listening to God's Word? When, if ever, have you fallen into that trap? What aspect of God's Word do you find the most challenging to obey? Spend a few minutes in prayer, talking with the Lord about your struggle and asking for his help.

Day 4

Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

1 Samuel 15:22

Reflect: Why can we find it easier to offer sacrifices rather than our obedience? Why does God prefer obedience?

Day 5

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean."

Matthew 23:27

Reflect: We can easily see hypocrisy in other people. Spend a few minutes with the Lord, asking him to reveal to you the hypocrisy in your life and to help you change that behavior and heart attitude.

Day 6

[Jesus] got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Mark 4:39

Reflect: What words of truth—what God-breathed words from Scripture—have calmed internal storms for you? List the "addresses" of some of them on the front or back cover of your Bible so you know where to find those lifelines when the next storm hits.

Day 7

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'"

Matthew 25:21

Reflect: Wln another of Jesus' parables, the two words "Well done!" are the rich commendation of a master to his servant. In what ways does building our lives on the strong foundation of obedience to Jesus improve the odds that we will hear this same commendation from him, our gracious Lord and Master, at the end of our lives? Close this week's study by asking God to help you stay grounded in his truth, obeying his commands to love, and living for his glory.