



BUILDING

Robert Morris

Focus God created us to be a dwelling place *for* Him and to build *with* Him.

Open Do you have a hobby that involves making something with your hands? For example: gardening, building models, cooking, crafts, painting. If not, is there anything you would like to try?

Read Genesis 1:26 shows us how God created us with a purpose that includes believing, belonging, becoming and building. God is a builder. Everything we see was built by God, and He is still building today.

When God builds something, He speaks to what He wants it to be built from, what He wants it to be sustained by and what He wants it to return to. In this way, trees come from dirt, are sustained by dirt and return to dirt. The same is true of animals and the human body, but the spirit of man comes from God, is sustained by God and returns to God. Man's spiritual death occurred when Adam and Eve sinned and pulled away from God. Jesus came to redeem and resurrect us. When we follow Christ, God rebuilds us (Genesis 1:26–27; Ephesians 2:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17).

We are the dwelling place of God (1 Corinthians 3:9, Ephesians 2:19–22, 1 Peter 2:5). But we also have church buildings because it's where we gather together to be fed and equipped to help others (buildings are tools to build people). Where God's people gather together is called the House of God because God meets with us (Exodus 25:22, Genesis 28:16–17, Matthew 21:13). There are two examples in the Old Testament where God's house was built: the tabernacle (through Moses' leadership) and the temple built by Solomon. In both examples, the leaders and the people willingly gave to build God's house (1 Chronicles 29:3–17, Exodus 35:5, 22, 29). There is never any manipulation for us to build His house—He wants us to give willingly. And we find as we build God's house, He will build our house (1 Chronicles 17:10, 25).

Talk

1. As you think about the fact God created *everything*, what are you thankful for? What things from nature speak to you about God?
2. Read Psalm 139:13–16. Have you ever thought about how God *intentionally* made each of us the way we are? How do these verses apply to the way we view ourselves and others?
3. God created us so He could meet with us. Sometimes it's difficult to know He is there. What helps you to meet with God and enter into His presence?
4. God not only meets with us as individuals, but also collectively as the Church. What benefits have you experienced from being part of the Body of Christ?
5. As believers, we're called to give our time, our finances and our lives, first to God, then to others. Which of these do you find most difficult to give? Why?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. God loves a cheerful giver. What do you think is the key to being a cheerful giver?

Live

Think of five things daily for which you are thankful. Write them down as you thank God for them.

Pray

Ask God to meet with you today. Ask Him to expand your willingness and your capacity to give to build His house and His kingdom on this earth. Trust Him to show you His faithfulness as you are faithful to Him.