



FIRST ORLANDO GROUPS GUIDE

01-4-2026

Pastor Trey Hildebrant

This month, we want to talk about how to GROW in a way that is “built to last.”
We want to be people who are built to last with a faith that is built to last.

Week 1

Built to Last

MAIN TEXT:

1 John 1: 1-6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Belong: (Ice Breaker)

What is your New Years Resolution or Word for the Year for 2026?

Believe:

- **Read 1 John 1:1-4**
- As you listen to this passage, what stands out to you? What questions do you have?
- What does John want to make clear from the beginning about His relationship with Jesus?
- Spiritual growth begins with a relationship with Jesus. Has there been a time in your life when you surrendered your life to Jesus and started your faith journey? Share the story of how you came to know Jesus personally. (Have 2-3 people share their personal testimony. As a leader, be prepared to share your own story if needed).
 - *Note for Leaders. If in the conversation it becomes clear that someone in your group has not surrendered their life to Christ, talk to them privately after group or make plans to meet up for coffee to share the Gospel with them and invite them to begin a relationship with Christ.*
- **Read 1 John 1:5-6 and 1 John 2:3-4**
- As you listen to these passages, what stand out to you? What questions do you have?
- As we walk in the light, what is a beautiful by-product? What does fellowship with other followers of Jesus look like for you right now?
- What is the difference between knowing about God and obeying God? Why does this matter?



FIRST ORLANDO
GROUPS GUIDE

01-04-2026

Pastor Trey Hildebrant

Week 1

Built to Last

MAIN TEXT:

1 John 1:1-6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Become:

- *Note for Leaders: (This will be explained by Pastor Trey in the message and would be great for you to discuss in your groups this week).*
 - The framework for spiritual growth we are focusing on during this series called “Built to Last” will be, focusing on three core relationships. A life that is BUILT to last is always GROWING in these three relationships - Up, In, and Out:
 - UP - our vertical connection with God (Growing spiritually);
 - IN - our horizontal community with other believers (The Church)
 - OUT – our missional engagement with the world to share the Gospel and serve others (Impact).
- Up/Growing Spiritually: Which of these two statements do you find more challenging? Explain your answer.
 - Spiritual growth is measured by the size of the gap between what we know and what we do. (obedience)
 - Spiritual growth is the movement from independence to dependence. (trust)
- What are you already doing in your everyday life to grow spiritually? What is one step you can take this week to either “shrink the gap” or “move from independence to dependence”?
- Ask for prayer requests from the group.
- Spend time in prayer for each other.
- Sign up for daily texts via “40777” to pray together throughout the next month.



GROUPS GUIDE

01-04-2026

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Week 1

Built to Last

MAIN TEXT:

1 John 1:1-6

Notes on 1 John for Leaders

- **1st John** is going to anchor us over the next few weeks. It is in the form of a letter and written by the Apostle John, with the goal of helping new believers who had scattered across the region fully understand the gospel and to recognize false teaching.
- 1 John gives us a clear picture of what the gospel truly is and how it transforms a person's life. It has been said that 1st John should be considered THE primary place to read to understand what it truly means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- **Context:** John was fighting against a lie, a heresy, that had entered the early Church. It is called "Gnosticism." This was (and is) a dangerous lie that was threatening the growth of the early church and the discipleship (the spiritual growth) of new believers in Jesus.
- **Gnosticism** was the belief in a dualism between the physical and spiritual. Namely, that the physical was inherently evil and the spirit was good. This led many to deny the true humanity of Christ because if the physical is evil then He could not have come to earth as man. So, myths like He merely appeared to be a man began to circulate. Here's the issue with that – If Jesus didn't really die on the cross, then His blood doesn't pay for our sin. Jesus becoming fully man is an essential doctrine to our faith – tied to the very nature of salvation.
- 1st John directly engages the lies with the truth of Jesus Christ.