



**“Shift”**  
**Luke 6**  
**Small Group Plan**

The international news agency Reuters quoted New Jersey Governor Chris Christie warning to the residents of his state. He said

*You have to prepare for the storm that's coming in a few hours. I'm waiting for the locusts and pestilence next.*

Hurricane Sandy will go down as one of the worst natural disasters to hit the northeast ever. But, as always is the case with natural disasters, we will recover. And probably steps will be taken to be more prepared for another storm.

Why is it that we can learn the lesson on the natural, physical level, but not on the spiritual level? And it's not a new question. Jesus asked it long ago.

**OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- What is the most important decision when it comes to building a house today?
- Do you know someone who lost their home to a storm or natural disaster? What happened?

**LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

**— THE STRUCTURES OF LIFE —**

**ROCK OR SAND**

**Luke 6:46-48a, 49a**

<sup>46</sup> “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? <sup>47</sup> I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. <sup>48a</sup> He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock ...

<sup>49a</sup> But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation.

- What are the characteristics of a well-built house?
- What are the characteristics of a well-built faith?
- What is the foolish person missing?

**— THE STORMS OF LIFE —**  
**STAND OR FALL**  
**Luke 6:48b, 49b**

*48b* When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built ...

*49b* The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed, and its destruction was complete.

- Do you get the feeling that the first house was hurriedly prepared for an unexpected storm, or that it was carefully prepared for an anticipated storm? Explain.
- As you think about the various parts of Jesus' story, what can each item represent in a person' life: the house, the rock or sand, the storm?

**USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- List and describe the kind of life-storms that we each will encounter.
- How has your faith in Jesus made a difference and prepared you as you have encountered the storms of life?
- As you look at your own life, where are you in the faith building process?
- What do you most need to do to be ready for the next storm that hits your life?
- Which of Jesus' words touches you most deeply?
- Close by asking God to help you see, understand, and prepare for the next storm.