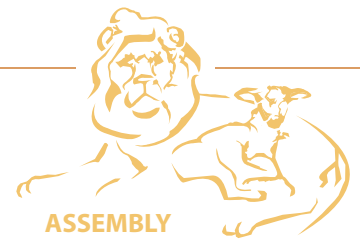


# WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 7:21-27



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### BUILDING ON SAND

#### Supplies

- two basins
- sand
- a cement block
- some wooden building blocks
- two pitchers of water

Pile a mound of sand inside a basin on one table and a cement patio block inside a second basin on another table. Give the children some wooden blocks and ask two teams to build a tower. One team should build their tower on the sand and the other team on the rock.

It should be quicker and easier to build on the cement block. After the construction is complete use a pitcher of water to simulate the floods of the storm.

Pour the water into the basin against the block – the tower on the block should stand well. Then pour the water into the sand. The water should erode the sand causing the tower to fall. Talk with the children about the exercise. Remind them that the rock represents God's word. Then ask them the following question:

- Of all the teachings in the Bible, what is the most important?  
Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 to the children. Explain that the Gospel is of first importance out of everything the Bible teaches.

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### REVIEW THE PARABLES

#### Supplies

cut rocks out of gray felt and draw a picture with permanent marker on each to represent the teachings of Jesus (i.e., a saw for Matt. 6:19, a flower for Matt. 6:25-34, an eye for Matt. 7:1-15, and a loaf of bread for Matt. 7:7-11)

Jesus taught about the wise and foolish builders after teaching about money (Matt. 6:19-24), God's sovereign provision (Matt. 6:25-34), judging others (Matt. 7:1-5), and God's faithfulness to answer prayer (Matt. 7:7-11).

Using the felt board, tell all these stories and relate them to trusting God and the Gospel.

Set the felt rocks on the felt board as the sure foundation that we should build our house upon. Each of these passages can be explained as pointing to the wonderful salvation that comes through Jesus Christ.

## WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Paul gives us the words that are of first importance in 1 Corinthians 15:1-6. The Gospel is the surest foundation. The Gospel is the message we should build on. If we trust anything else besides Jesus for our salvation, it will surely crumble like the sand.

