

WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 7:21-27



The STORY

Read about Jesus telling His disciples about the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7:21-27.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What is this passage about? (The parable is about the wise and foolish men and how they built their houses. The real point to the story is that Jesus' words are the rock upon which the wise man built his house.)
- What does the rock represent in the story? (The rock represents Jesus' teachings. If we believe what Jesus taught, our lives will have a strong foundation.)
- What does the sand represent in the story? (The sand represents rejecting Jesus' words and doing what we want.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: two houses, one built on sand and one on a rock. Engage the children by asking:

- Whose house was built on the better foundation? (The man that built his house upon the rock had the surer foundation.)
- What does the rock represent? (The rock represents Jesus' teachings – His words. Jesus Himself is called, "The Word" in John 1:14. Ultimately we need to build our lives on a firm foundation and trust in Jesus Christ.)
- What does the sand represent? (The sand represents all the other things we can place our trust in. This could be money, our own strength, our education, our talents or anything else that we trust instead of Jesus.)

WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 7:21-27

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Why should we follow what Jesus taught? (We should follow Jesus' teachings because His word is true and it will provide safety. We honor God when we believe His word.)
- What happens to the person who does not follow Jesus' teaching? (Notice that the man in the parable that did not follow Jesus' teaching was still able to build a house. It wasn't until the storm tested his house that it fell. For those who do not believe in Jesus but follow their own way, they will still be able to enjoy life, but the Bible tells us that we will all come under judgment in the end. It is then that what they have built with their lives will be tested.)
- Do you think the "many" referred to in verses 22 and 23 built their house on the rock or the sand? (The many obviously built their houses on the sand because God will say to them, "I never knew you, depart from me.")

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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

