

Wise and Foolish Builders

This topic is collection lessons and ideas about the story of Jesus' parable, given during the Sermon on the Mount, about the wise and foolish builders and how they demonstrate a life of faith built upon God's Word.

found in Matthew 7:24-29

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law

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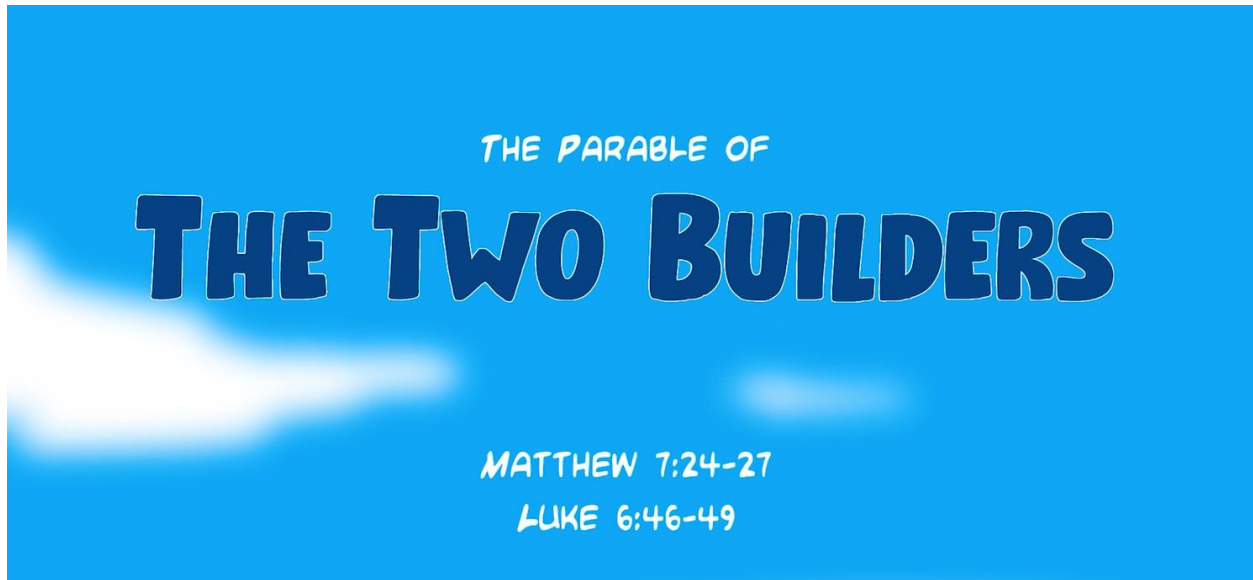
Science Lesson

Scripture

1. The parable of the house on the rock and house on the sand (Matthew 7:24-27)
2. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer... (Psalm 18:2)

Welcome students.

Show the short video: "The Parable of The Two Builders"



Ask:

1. Why do you think the second builder copied the diagram from the first builder's book instead of reading the full lesson plans himself?
2. Do you think that the first builder got jealous of the second builder when he completed his house before the first builder even finished digging his foundation? Why or why not? How would you have felt?
3. Why did the second builder hide the cracks in his house's walls instead of really fixing them?
4. Why did the second builder's house begin to crumble when the rain and flooding began? Why didn't the other house crumble too?
5. What did the first builder reveal was his secret behind his house still standing at the end?

Presentation

Two Styrofoam houses are set in glass cake pans. One is set on a piece of ceramic tile (rock) and the other on a scoop of sand. When the storm comes, a jar of water is poured into the cake pan of the house built on the rock—nothing happens, the house remains strong. Another clear liquid (acetone) is poured into the cake pan with sand, and the house slowly dissolves. You can add to the story with a spray bottle of water to mist the audience, representing rain.

Materials

1. Two Styrofoam houses
2. Scoop of sand
3. Piece of ceramic tile
4. Two glass cake pans
5. Two glass jars (one filled with water and one filled with acetone / 18-20 oz. each)
6. Spray bottle with water (rain)

Preparation

1. For this demonstration you will need to obtain acetone and large pieces of Styrofoam, both available from the warehouse hardware stores. The Styrofoam is sold as insulation and the acetone sold in gallon cans as a solvent. There will probably be a protective layer of plastic on both sides of the Styrofoam that should be removed. Be aware that acetone is flammable and gives off a pretty strong odor, so make sure room is well ventilated
2. The houses can be cut with a box cutter from the Styrofoam and marked with permanent marker. For our class demo, the houses were about 8 inches wide and about 3 feet high.
3. Two glass jars, one with 18-20 oz water, the other with 18-20 oz acetone.

Teach

1. Explain the parable of the house built on the rock and the house built on the sand. Jesus predicted that the storms of life will come to all of us, but if we trust Him and obey His Word, our house (our life, our family, etc) will be strong and remain solid. Provide examples of “storms” that children can relate to, such as a parent losing their job.
2. Pour water from the jar into the cake pan with the ceramic tile, representing the storm coming to the house built on the rock – nothing happens! The house is built on the rock! This person / family is confident God is in control and will work things out in His timing! When the acetone is added to the cake pan with sand, the house slowly dissolves. As it does, you can mist the students with a spray bottle filled with water to show the rain!

What’s Happening? The acetone is a solvent that dissolves the Styrofoam.

End in prayer, asking for God to give us a solid foundation in Jesus, and that we’d take the time to build it according to his Word.

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Video Lesson

Nest Video: [Built Upon The Rock DVD](#) After the video sing the below song with the kids

Jesus instructs His followers to **forgive** those who wrong us and to love them through the parable of the **House Built Upon the Rock**. "Whoever hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the **rock**." - Matthew 7:24 (NIV)

"Built Upon a Rock", Nest Entertainment. They've redone their DVD's to include 3 quizzes you can do on the T.V. screen with the kids after the movie, if you have time. Questions & Answers must be read. We pass around the remote for the DVD player and that person selects the answer from the 4 choices that the group majority thinks is correct (the first person to suggest the correct answer, teacher takes a quick poll of who agrees). Our kids love doing this and those children who normally don't participate (too shy) always want to join in.

In Built Upon the **Rock** teaches that in order to have a firm foundation we must trust in Jesus Christ.

Song: The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock

"The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock
And the rain came tumbling down
Oh, the rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
And the wise man's house stood firm.
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
And the rain came tumbling down
Oh, the rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
And the foolish man's house went "splat!" [clap hands once]
So, build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
Build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
Build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
And the blessings will come down
Oh, the blessings come down
As your prayers go up
The blessings come down
As your prayers go up
The blessings come down
As your prayer go up
So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ."

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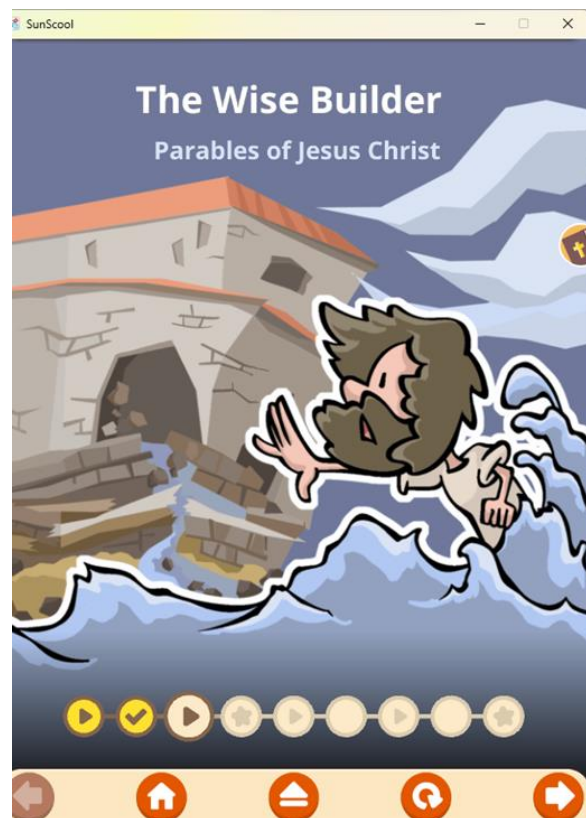
Computers & Games Lesson

Jenga Wood Block Tower Demonstration of what the foundation is.

contributed by Neil

Welcome students:

SunScool Bible App "The Wise Builder"



Have students open the SunScool Software app. Direct them to go to level 4.

The lesson will be under "Who Is Jesus? His life and teaching."

Have the students go through all of the stories, games, etc. for this lesson. It should take 10 minutes maximum. This will give them a good understanding of the story and its life application.

Game: Jenga

Jenga is the wood block tower game where players remove one wooden block at a time until the tower falls. In this version of Jenga, you can use LARGE blocks cut from 2x4s. The reason why you want them larger is two fold: 1) So you can WRITE on the blocks what they represent. 2) It falls more spectacularly

Ideas for what the large Jenga blocks represent at the base of your tower:

- Unselfish behavior, serving others
- Integrity
- Keeping Your Promise to God
- Knowing Scripture
- Loving attitude towards all
- Praying for Guidance
- Worship God and honoring him

Play the game of Jenga. Once the tower falls down, take a look at the labeled blocks on the base of the tower.

You can debate how fundamental each is to "holding up the tower"

You can also discuss what happens when we fail? ...because we do.

- What are things that try to rock our foundation in the Lord?
- How do we strengthen a building?
- How does a building grow weak over time?
- What happens when we fall down?
- How do other people contribute to our building a strong foundation?

Share the song "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock"

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Craft Lesson

Supplies:

Unfinished bird houses

Small rocks

Glue

Acrylic Paint or markers

Show short video to review the parable of the Wise Man from Matthew 7:24-27



Ask the kids about why it is important to build on solid ground. Remind the kids that the solid ground symbolizes Jesus and Scriptures.

The craft today is to give us a visual reminder that having a firm foundation in God's Word.

Students will write "The wise man built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24 on the roof of their house.



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