



## **When we choose to live different, we follow God.**

### **Bible Story:**

#### **The Wise and Foolish Builders: Matthew 7:24-27**

**Memory Verse:** "So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock." *Matthew 7:24 NIRV*

**Basic Truth:** Jesus brought His followers to a mountain to explain to them what it means to live as part of God's kingdom - to live different. That message is called the Sermon on the Mount. In **Matthew 7:24-27**, Jesus tells us that if we hear His words and follow them, then we are like a wise man. No matter what trials or tribulations come our way, we can stand firm on the foundation of knowing we are following God and He is for us. We need to learn what God wants of us and do it. **When we choose to live different, we follow God.**

### **Bible Study Message:**

**DEAR PARENT-**The lesson this week has you prepping a few things to use during your family service lesson time. They are things around your house (inside and outside).

Please note: If you cannot put things together, you can watch the Object Lesson video in the email for an example of this exact activity, but we know your kids would love to do it themselves with you as well. Have fun!

### **MATERIALS:**

1 medium size rock  
2 paper cups, 1 small bowl  
1 or 2 cups of moist sand  
1 medium to large casserole dish  
Pitcher of water

### **DURATION:**

Approximately 15 minutes

### **PREPARATION:**

Before the lesson, take slightly moistened sand and fill a small bowl. Draw windows and a door on two paper cups.

### **WHAT YOU WILL DO DURING THE LESSON:**

During the lesson, you will put the empty casserole dish on the table so that the whole family can see it. Then you will take the small bowl with the sand in it and tip it upside down inside the casserole dish to make something like a small sandcastle. Do not worry if a little crumbles. Place the medium size rock at the other end of the casserole dish. Then place a paper cup house on both the sand and the rock. You will then pour water over both to show how a house built on a solid foundation can withstand the heavy storms.

### **SAY:**

Today, we're back in Matthew, Chapter seven. We're getting close to the end of Jesus's first sermon. Do you remember what that sermon is called? ***(Sermon on the Mount)*** Very good! So we're coming to the end of the sermon, and Jesus is showing His disciples the choices they have to make. Listen to what verses 24 through 27 says:

### **READ MATTHEW 7:24-27 OUT LOUD TOGETHER**

Do you believe that anyone could be so foolish that he or she would build a house on top of sand? ***(Take one of the paper cups and place it on top of the sand.)*** Wiser people will build their house on a good foundation. ***(Take the second cup and place it on top of the rock.)***

Which house do you think will last, and which one do you think will wash away? We just heard what the Bible tells us in Matthew 7:24-27. Listen to it again: "Anyone who hears the words of God and puts them into practice is like the wise man who built his house on the rock. 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." ***(Take the pitcher of water and pour a little water on the rock.)***

Jesus said, "But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." ***(Take the pitcher of water and pour a little water on the sand and the house will fall.)***

What kinds of "storms" might we encounter in our lives? ***(Moving, changing schools, Losing a pet, etc.)*** Why are these things difficult? ***(Allow for answers)*** How can we handle it when they come up? ***(Allow for answers)*** Jesus says in these verses that we are to hear His words and put them into practice...how can we do that? ***(Read the Bible, pray, listen in church, obey parents,***

*etc.)* When we do what God says and follow His ways, we help keep a solid foundation under us and the life we are building. The more we know and love the Lord, the more stable and reliable our faith and even in hard times it will hold firm.

~PRAY~

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- In the parable, what does Jesus say makes us wise?
- Why is it important to put God's Word into practice?
- How can God's Word make us stronger?
- What does the house represent?
- What does the storm represent?
- What kind of storms in our lives can God help us withstand?
- Can anyone give any examples on how some people may be building their lives on a foundation of sand?
- What are some ways we can build our lives on the rock?
- What are some ways you can make sure you are building your life on the Rock and following God?
- Is there anything that you do right now that might be building your life on sand? How can you fix that in your life?
- Do you have any questions about anything you heard about today?
- What can we be praying for as a family together?

### **Activities for Preschool and Elementary Kids:**

- **Construction Race**

**Items Needed:**

- ❖ **Blocks or Building materials**
- ❖ **Table or Solid Surface**
- ❖ **Pillow or Lumpy Couch Cushion**
- ❖ **Timer**

1. Pick two family members to race against each other.
2. Give each one a set of building blocks or materials.
3. Explain that they have 2 minutes on the timer and must build a tower in those two minutes. **HOWEVER**, one of them will build it on the solid surface, and the other one will build it on the pillow or lumpy couch cushion.
4. Once both family members are ready, start the timer and watch them build.
5. When the timer goes off, discuss which one was easier and why.
6. After the towers are built, shake or tug at the pillow or cushion and watch what happens together.

- **Wise Man Coloring Activity**

- Items Needed:**

- ❖ **Wise Man Coloring Sheet-Attached to Email**
    - ❖ **Paper or Cardstock**
    - ❖ **Crayons and/or Markers**

- Print out the Wolf in Sheep's Clothes Coloring Sheet.

- Give each family member one copy with crayons and markers and let them color their sheet.

- Hang them up in your house as a reminder of our lesson this week.

- **The Rock Painting Activity**

- Items Needed:**

- ❖ **Rocks**
    - ❖ **Paint and Paint Brushes**
    - ❖ **Decorative Items-Glitter, Confetti, Stickers**
    - ❖ **Glue**

- Give each family member a small to medium-size rock, as well as paint and paintbrushes.

- Allow them each to paint, adorn, or otherwise decorate the rocks to keep and use as a reminder to build their life on the Rock.

- Use a Sharpie to write Matthew 7:24-27 on the rock.

- Put the rocks somewhere in your house or outside in your yard once they dry as a reminder of our lesson this week.

- **Cracker Construction Snack Activity**

- Items Needed:**

- ❖ **Any type of crackers**
    - ❖ **Peanut Butter, Frosting, etc.**
    - ❖ **Pretzels, Marshmallows, chocolate chips, sprinkles, etc.**

- Give each family member a group of items and allow them to build their own "munch-able mansion"!

- Once their edible homes are finished, they can eat them as a treat!