

Life of Christ

The wise and foolish builders

Matthew 7:24-29

Younger Verse

If we tell God our wrongs, He will forgive us our sins and clean us from all our wrongs.
1st John 1:9

Older Verse

If we tell God our wrongs, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and clean us from all our wrongs. 1st John 1:9

Lesson Goals

Give an example of how to make a good decision
See how being wise is important to God

Welcome Time

If you could build a house somewhere, where would you want to live? Listen for ideas. Explain that today's lesson is a story about being wise in making decisions.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

One time in the Bible, Jesus talked to many people about God and Heaven. They sat down and listened to Him for hours! Can you imagine what it must have been like to hear Jesus and see Him face to face?

Jesus told the people many things about God and about how to act. As He was talking, He shared how important it was to listen and do the things that He said.

Jesus shared a story to help the people know why it was important to obey God and do what He said:

There were two men who wanted to build new houses. They looked and looked for the perfect spot for their homes. One man was wise. This means that he thought about things before he did them. He was careful in making decisions and listened to the ideas of others.

The other man was foolish. This means that he did not listen to what others thought or think about the consequences of his actions. He did whatever he wanted and did not worry about what would happen.

The wise man decided to build his house on the hard rock. He poured a foundation of concrete first, then built his house. He made sure everything was done correctly.

The foolish man loved the beach. He thought it would be wonderful to have a house on the beach. It would be close to the water and he could go swimming whenever he wanted. He did not think about the water being close to his house or what would happen when a storm came.

One day, dark, gray clouds drifted into the town. Suddenly, lightning bolted

across the sky. The wind blew hard and raindrops flooded the town. The water began to rise and rise.

The tide from the ocean began to creep up to the foolish man's house. Before long, the house was flooded! There was nothing the foolish man could do! The winds blew harder and knocked the house apart! The foolish man had nothing left.

The wise man watched the storm come from his warm home. He had thought about the importance of a safe, secure home. Now, when the storm came, he was safe. He did not have to worry. His house stood strong.

Jesus told this story to help us see that we should be like the wise man. When we are making decisions, we should ask God for help and listen for His answers. He will show us what to do and make sure we are safe. The important thing to remember is that we must do what God says.

Jesus said that when we do things OUR way, we are like the foolish man. We do not listen to God and when bad things happen, we CRASH!

Who would you like to be like? The best way is to be like the wise man. He listened to God and did things His way. He was careful and smart. He thought about the consequences too.

When we hear what God says in the Bible and do it, we are being wise. The Bible tells us that we have a very important decision to make. We must decide if we believe and trust Jesus. If we believe in Jesus, we must ask Him to come into our lives. This means that we want to do things His way instead of our way. When we trust Him, we are guaranteed that we will go to Heaven. We can't get to Heaven by doing good things. The only way to Heaven is by believing in Jesus. Would you like to do this? This is the best decision you can ever make. Talk to us about it during activity time.

Learning Activities

Use activities that will help everyone understand the lesson and help them apply it to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

Bring dish soap or laundry detergent. Ask the kids to tell you what it does. (Cleans dishes and clothes) Share how Jesus can clean out our hearts and remove all the wrongs if we ask Him to.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us make good decisions this week.

Snack Time/CleanUp

You might want to make "sand"wiches today :-)) or snack on other goodies.

Planning for September 1st
How do I deal with sad times?
Lazarus
John 11

Preschool Lesson for Wise and Foolish Builders

There are lots of fun noises to make with this lesson. The word “wise” is hard to understand. It may be easier to use the word “smart.”

One time in the Bible, Jesus talked to many people about God and Heaven. They sat down and listened to Him for hours! Can you imagine what it must have been like to hear Jesus and see Him face to face?

Jesus told the people many things about God and about how to act. As He was talking, He shared how important it was to listen and do the things that He said.

Jesus shared a story to help the people know why it was important to obey God and do what He said:

There were two men who wanted to build new houses. They looked and looked for the perfect spot for their homes. (Put your hand over your eyebrows like you are looking for something) One man was wise. This means that he thought about things before he did them. He was careful in making decisions and listened to the ideas of others.

The other man was foolish. This means that he did not listen to what others thought. He did whatever he wanted and did not worry about what would happen.

The wise man decided to build his house on the hard rock. He poured a foundation of concrete first, then built his house. (pretend like you are hammering) He made sure everything was done correctly.

The foolish man loved the beach. He thought it would be wonderful to have a house on the beach by the ocean. It would be close to the water and he could go swimming whenever he wanted. He did not think about the water being close to his house or what would happen when a storm came.

One day, dark, gray clouds drifted into the town. Suddenly, lightning bolted across the sky. (Make a noise like thunder) The wind blew hard and raindrops flooded the town. (make a noise like the wind and rain) The water began to rise and rise.

The tide from the ocean began to creep up to the foolish man’s house. Before long, the house was flooded! There was nothing the foolish man could do! The winds blew harder and knocked the house down with a CRASH! (be sure to make a crash noise)

The wise man watched the storm come from his warm home. He had thought about the importance of a safe, secure home. Now, when the storm was here, he was safe. He did not have to worry. His house stood strong.

Jesus told this story to help us see that we should be like the wise man. When we are doing things, we should ask God for help and listen for His answers. He will show us what to do and make sure we are safe. The important thing to remember is that we must do what God says.

Sing “Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock” or the “Foolish Man” song.

Hands-on Activities for Wise and Foolish Builders

Try a listening activity to help them remember to listen and follow God. Bring a straight pin and a piece of paper. Ask the kids to be quiet and listen. Share that you are going to drop a pin behind a piece of paper. They are to raise their hands when they hear the pin drop and hit the ground or table. Take turns dropping the pin. Talk about how we must listen to God and do what He says. If they ask how we hear God, take the opportunity to talk about prayer and reading the Bible. Share experiences from your life.

Make the foolish houses snack. It's delicious.

Try the soda bottle craft to illustrate the lesson.

Another craft: House on a rock.

Demonstrate the story. See the attached page.

Sing "Foolish Man" song to tune of "Old McDonald had a farm"

Print the verse on a smooth rock as a reminder of the wise man and what it means to follow God's instructions.

Make sand or salt pictures about the lesson or write the verse with glue and sprinkle sand/salt on it.