

Life of Christ

Wise and Foolish Builders

Matthew 7:24-29

Younger Verse

Obey God's message!

James 1:22 (CEV)

Older Verse

Obey God's message! Don't fool yourselves by just listening to it.

James 1:22 (CEV)

Lesson Goals

To learn what it means to be wise

To understand that we must listen and obey Jesus' teaching

To know that we can build our lives on Jesus, the Rock

Welcome Time

Ask: Have you ever built or seen a sand castle? Does it last very long? What happens when the waves come up? Would you want to build a house on sand or on a rock?

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 before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus taught many things to his disciples. We have spent several weeks looking at the different parts of His teaching from the mountainside. Today, we will learn about what Jesus said at the end of this teaching time.

Jesus knew that sometimes people listen to good advice but then do not follow it. He wanted to remind His new friends that they needed to *follow* His teaching, not just hear it. So He used a story to illustrate this truth.

Jesus said that a person who listens to His teaching and obeys it is like a man who built his house on a solid rock. When the storms came, his house was safe, because it had a strong foundation. Jesus says that this person is **wise**.

Ask: What does it mean to be wise? A wise person knows the difference between right and wrong, and chooses the right way. In Jesus' story, the wise man made the right choice—he chose to build his house on the rock.

Jesus then talks about a foolish man. He says that a person who hears His teaching but does *not* obey it is like a man who built his house on sand. When the storms came, the house fell with a crash! The man did not think about this when he built the house. He did not make a good choice.

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. The important thing to remember is that **we must do what God says**. He knows what is best for us!

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, our lives fall apart. It is not enough to hear Jesus' teachings. We must listen and follow them. He wants to warn those who do not

want to follow Him that their lives are headed for disaster.

Ask: Who do you want to be like—the wise man or the foolish man? The best choice is to be like the wise man. He listened to God and did things His way. **When we hear what God says in the Bible and do it, we are being wise.**

Jesus *is* the solid rock! We need to build our lives on Him. We can depend on Him at all times. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. When we need answers, we can go to Him in prayer and by reading His Word. He will give us the wisdom we need for every choice in life. Let's listen to Him *and* obey!

Remember—the first step to building your life on Jesus is to ask Him to forgive you of your sins and take control of your life. Once you have invited Him into your life, Jesus will help you to make wise choices. He will give you strength to obey Him. He will be with you forever.

Review Questions

1. What does it mean to be wise? (Answer: to know the difference between right and wrong; choose the right way)
2. What did the wise man build his house on? (Answer: a solid rock)
3. What did the foolish man build his house on? (Answer: sand)
4. What happened to each house when the storms came? (Answer: wise man—the house stood firm; foolish man—the house fell down)
5. How do we build our lives on the solid rock? (Answer: by trusting Jesus and obeying Him)

Prayer Time

Thank God for giving us the Bible to teach us how to live. Ask Him to help us follow His teachings so our lives will stand strong.

Life Application

Wise people build their lives on Jesus. Let's look at other Scriptures that talk about the Rock.

Psalm 18:2, 31, 46

Psalm 19:14

Psalm 28:1

Psalm 40:2

Psalm 42:9

Psalm 62:2, 6-7

Isaiah 26:4

Isaiah 44:8

Luke 6:48

1 Corinthians 10:4

1 Peter 2:6

Planning for Next Lesson
The Army Soldier's Helper
Matthew 8:5-13

Preschool Lesson For Wise and Foolish Builders

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, lightening 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 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.

Hands-on Activities For Wise and Foolish Builders

Sing “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock.”

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.

Have the kids write “Jesus” on a rock. If possible, have enough for each child to take one home as a reminder to build our life on the rock—Jesus!

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

Bring a plastic tub with sand in it. Take the kids outside and let them build a house out of blocks or sticks. Then pour water in with the sand and watch the house fall down.

Another activity with sand is to place several small objects in a bucket with sand (Examples: shells, coins, trinkets, etc.). Let the kids dig in the bucket and find the treasures!