

Listen and Obey:

The Wise and Foolish Builders

Matthew 7:24-27



New Testament 1
Part 2: The Sermon on the Mount

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 1 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 7:21-27; Luke 6:46-49; James 1:22-25

MEMORY WORK:

“But why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site

- [“Luke 6:46”](#)
- [“Matthew 7:21-23”](#)
- [“The Wise Man Built His House](#)
- [Upon the Rock”](#)
- [“The More We Read the Bible”](#)
- [“God Wants Us to Obey”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP’s Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus’ Birth & Sermon](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press’ [Bible Timeline](#)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- “Matthew Chapter Summary” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens’ felt pieces
- [“Map of New Testament World”](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- [“Map of Palestine”](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- Build two sugar cube or Lincoln Log houses in a sandbox. Or put styrofoam under some sand to serve as a good “foundation” and build houses of Popsicle sticks, sticking the sticks into the styrofoam. For the foolish man’s house, put Popsicle sticks in the sand, with no “foundation.”
- Traffic signs
- Make a flipchart to use in telling the story.



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must do what God tells me to do in His Word—the Bible.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Just like our parents tell us stories, sometimes Jesus told stories to teach His lessons. His were stories that helped people obey God better.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Have your parents ever told you to do something, and you heard them, but did not do what they said? What happens when you do that? Isn't it easier for you if you do what your parents ask the first time? Just like children with their parents, people often hear God's Word, but don't obey. Jesus used a story to tell people how much better it is if they obey God.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jesus knew that many of the people who followed Him to hear His sermons and to see Him perform miracles would listen but would not obey His words. So, He told them a short story with a special meaning (a parable) about two men who each built a house.
2. Today, when a house is built, the builder first has to make sure the ground is level. Then concrete trucks come and pour a foundation for the house to sit on. The concrete has to be leveled carefully and then allowed to dry and harden. Then, and only then, can the house be built. For big, tall buildings, sometimes the builders have to “dig deep” to have a strong enough foundation to hold the steel, bricks, and glass that the building is made of. To build a strong house, the builder must follow the blueprints (the instructions) exactly.
3. In this parable, it seems that the two builders are discussed. They probably had the same materials with which to work and the same plans. Their houses would not have necessarily appeared to be different from the outside. But one house had problems, because the foundation was not what it should have been.
4. The wise man “dug deep” (Luke 6:48) so that he could make a solid foundation on which to build his house. He built on the solid rock that was under the dirt and/or sand, which was as firm as concrete. But the foolish man decided to take shortcuts and built his house on unstable sand. Then a terrible storm came. The wise man's house was safe and snug, completely unaffected by the winds and rain. But the foolish man's house came crashing down in pieces, because it was not built on a solid rock foundation.
5. Jesus used this story to teach the crowds the importance of not just hearing what He said but also obeying His words. Everything in life will go better if we build our lives on the solid foundation of God's Word (listen to His Word and obey His instructions exactly). We can't make up our own rules or try to do things differently than what the Bible says. [Discuss with the **older children**: storms of life—peer pressure, temptations, etc. Poor foundations—listening to other people and trying to please them instead of God; being overly concerned about having things, about physical appearance, about spending most of our time having fun, etc.]

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- Make (or buy) a small tool belt for each child. Make cardboard tools with key words from the parable on each one.
- “[Listen and Obey Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Let kids make houses from modeling clay or Play-Doh which they can mount on smooth rock. Let them write on the rock, “A wise man builds his house on God’s Word.”
- Enlarge the words of the memory verse on magnetic cards. Let children put the cards in order.
- “[Listen and Obey Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read:
 - *Stand Strong: The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders* (by Claudia Courtney; Phonetic Bible Stories)
 - *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (Rainbow Books)

3rd-4th Graders:

- If they have yet to do so this quarter, have the children read Matthew 7 and Luke 6.
- Enlarge the words from the parable and put them on magnetic cards. Let the children put the cards in order.
- “[Listen and Obey Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Listen and Obey Activity: Matthew 7:21-27](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

SONGS:

“LUKE 6:46”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden In My Heart II](#)” CD)

“MATTHEW 7:21-23”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden In My Heart II](#)” CD)

“THE WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE ROCK” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Ann Omley; Revised by: Jeff Miller
(Tune: See Internet)

VERSE 1:

The wise man built his house upon the rock. (3X)
And the rains came tumbling down.

CHORUS:

Oh! The rains came down, and the floods came up.
The rains came down, and the floods came up. (REPEAT)

And the wise man’s house stood firm.

VERSE 2:

But! The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
The foolish man built his house upon the sand. (REPEAT)
And the rains came tumbling down.

(CHORUS)

And the foolish man’s house went splat.

VERSE 3:

So! Build your house on the Word of Jesus Christ.
Build your house on the Word of Jesus Christ. (REPEAT)
And the blessings will come down.

Oh! The blessings come down as the prayers go up.
The blessings come down as the prayers go up. (REPEAT)
So build your house on the Word of Jesus Christ.

“THE MORE WE READ THE BIBLE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*
(Tune: “The More We Get Together”)

The more we read the Bible,
The Bible, the Bible,
The more we read the Bible,
The happier we’ll be.

We’ll learn about Jesus,
And how we can please Him.
The more we read the Bible,
The happier we’ll be.

“GOD WANTS US TO OBEY” ([Click to Hear](#))

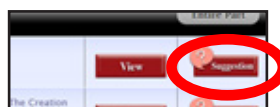
Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”)

God wants us to obey Him.
God wants us to obey Him.
God wants us to obey Him.
The Bible tells us so.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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- **Traffic signs**
- **Make a flipchart to use in telling the story.**
- **Bring pictures of the different stages of a house being built. Have a construction worker/carpenter talk about how to build a house and the importance of having a good foundation.**

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must do what God tells me to do in His Word—the Bible.

INTRODUCTION/POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson (see [N.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions).

[N.T. 1 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday’s lesson

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