

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



MATTHEW 7

WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-29

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Fan, cardstock paper, water spray bottle, lots of masking tape

Ask:

Who has ever built a sandcastle? Where did you build it? How big were you able to make it? How long did it last?

Has anyone ever built anything else? Something out of wood or clay? Tell us about it. Let's do some building of our own today!

Activity:

Have the kids work together in pairs or individually depending on your group. Tell them that they have 8 minutes to build a house that will last. You may need to precut strips of masking tape or have several rolls available so that the kids have adequate time to build.

They will be building houses out of tape and paper. Tell them they want to try to build the strongest house.

After the 8 minutes is up, test the strength of each structure by blowing on it with a fan. If you want to squirt it with water for fun, go ahead. Blow the houses across the room.

Today we're going to read a story about two builders, and I want you to listen to how they are the same and how they are different.

Read: Matthew 7:24-29

Ask:

What did you notice that was the same? (They both heard the words of Jesus, both faced storms)

What was different? (One put what he learned into practice while the other didn't, the one who put the words of Jesus into practice had a house that stood firm, the other did not)

If you need to explain to kids what a foundation is, do so here. Basements provide a good visual.

Activity:

Do the activity again, but this time encourage the kids to build a “foundation” by anchoring it to the ground with tape. Give them another 8 minutes to redesign their buildings. See how well their buildings withstand the storm this time.

Ask:

How was it different the first time from the second time?

Do you see how important it is to have a secure foundation?

The wise man was the one who heard and put the words of Jesus into practice. What words do you think Jesus meant? (He’s ending the Sermon on the Mount. He is likely referring to all of the teachings we’ve spent the last several weeks talking about.)

Can you remember any of the teachings we’ve discussed so far? (Being generous, doing righteous acts in secret and not to be noticed, the Lord’s prayer, being the salt of the earth, being the light of the world, loving our enemies etc.) There are even others that we didn’t hit on (give examples from other teachings of the Sermon on the Mount that weren’t discussed in previous lesson plans).

Have you been able to put any of those into practice over the past few weeks? Were any hard? Were any easy?

It isn’t easy to follow Jesus sometimes. Just like it isn’t easy to build a house. But when we build our houses on the strong foundation of Jesus’ teachings, we’re able to withstand storms and hardships because we know his Word and we have the joy of knowing that we’re doing what God has called us to do, no matter how hard it is. Thankfully, he helps and guides us with his Holy Spirit. Teaching us and correcting us when we do wrong. He forgives us when we fall short and helps us to try again.

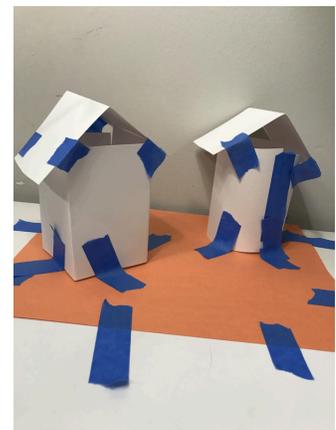
This week, I want you to take think about what you’ve learned from the Sermon on the Mount and choose one teaching to put into practice. Come back next week and tell us how it went!

Memorize: Matthew 7:26

Close in prayer



No Foundation



Foundation