

Children's Story – Building on the Rock

Matthew 7:24-27

Supplies: Green blanket, plastic blocks or similar building materials, brick or inverted plate, plastic container with sand, pitcher of water. Make a house out of plastic blocks or similar building materials in advance.

Do you like stories? Jesus loved to tell stories. Jesus often told stories called parables. Parables help us think about following Jesus and living God's ways. People often gathered on a grassy hillside to listen to Jesus. Let's imagine we're on a hillside to hear Jesus.

(Spread green blanket and invite children to sit on it.)

One day Jesus told this parable. There were two people (*hold up two fingers*) who were building a house: a wise person (*point to one finger*) and a foolish person (*point to the other finger*). The wise person built a house on a firm foundation (*hold up house*) with strong material for the foundation, like bricks and cement (*place house on a brick or inverted plate*).

Rain came (*tap hands on legs*). The wind blew (*make blowing sound and move hands around like wind*). A big storm beat upon the house (*tap hands harder on legs*) but it did not move (*place hands around house*). The house was strong. Everyone was safe and secure. Nothing could move it because it had a strong foundation.

(Pause.)

But a foolish person built a house on sand (*place house on sand in plastic container*). The rain and wind came (*pour water on sand until house floats in water*). The house did not stand strong. It was not safe and secure through the storm.

(Pause.)

Then Jesus said, "Anyone who hears and obeys my teachings is like a wise person who builds his or her house on solid ground." When we follow Jesus' ways of peace, love, and kindness we are wise builders. God keeps us safe and secure (*extend arms around children gathered*).

Pray: Thank you, God, for keeping us safe and secure. Help us to be wise builders by choosing to follow Jesus' ways. Amen.

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