

The House Built on The Rock

Matthew 7:24-29

MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 7:24-25

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Blocks or playing cards.

Two pie plates, play dough, sand, toothpicks and a pitcher of water.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

"Building a House" Game

Have your class divide into teams and build a house of blocks or cards depending on their ages and abilities.

Challenge them to see how high they can build before it topples.

Explain that today we are going to learn about building. We will learn that the foundation we build upon is very important. Our lives are like buildings. If we build our lives on a good foundation we will stand firm. If we are on a weak foundation then we will have many problems in life. Let's learn more about these foundations and how we can build our lives on the solid rock of God's word. **We must hear and do the Word of God.**

LESSON TIME!

Did you know that we are all builders? We all have that in common with one another. We are building a "house." That probably surprises you! You're thinking, "I'm not building anything; especially not a house. The house I live in was already built and finished long ago." But, we are not talking about a house you live in. We're talking about a house of character; we are building our lives.

What is character? Character is the good qualities that each of us has. Qualities are the things being built into our characters, brick by brick. What are good qualities? Good qualities are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control--the fruit of the Spirit and the result of that fruit: diligence, honesty, attentiveness, and moral excellence.

As we said, everybody is a builder--building their character as each day goes by. Some people build their lives with bad things like anger, stealing, violence, etc. Each of us has a choice as a builder, a choice that will make or break our building. Let's find out what it is. **We must hear and do the Word of God.**

MATTHEW 7:24

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock..."

Jesus had just finished His sermon on the mount where He taught much about how to live a life that is pleasing to God. He also taught them how to pray and what kind of life is blessed.

What a privilege and a blessing to be one of those hearers! To be in the company of Jesus as He opened His mouth and began to teach. Everything He was saying was pure truth. His words were as pure as gold. How wonderful it is to hear them now. They are all

recorded in our Bibles so we can have their priceless wisdom too. Just as if we were sitting with Jesus on the side of that hill on that very day.

As Jesus finished up His sayings, He said that it is not enough to "hear" His Words; we must "do" them. To "do" is different than to "hear"; to "do" means we take what He has said and do something about it. We let it sink in and change our hearts. We let it re-make our minds. We let it be the filter for everything that comes into our lives. His Word must take affect in our lives. **We must hear and do the Word of God.**

The "Obeying" Game

Divide your class into two groups. Call one group the "hearers" and the other group the "hearers and doers." Give the class various commands like in the game "Mother May I." Instruct the "hearers" to only listen to the commands, but not to do them. Have the "hearers and doers" listen and follow the commands given.

After a few commands, switch the names of the groups and let the other team have a chance to obey. Explain the application to the children.

If we do what Jesus says, He call us "wise." "Wise" means to make the right choice with the knowledge one has. His sayings give us wisdom and make us wise when we do them. This word "do" has to do with obedience. If we just "hear" but never "do" we are disobedient to Him. If we hear and also do, we have obeyed; that means we are now wise. It's obedience that makes the difference in those of us who build. **We must hear and do the Word of God.**

As we build "character," we have two choices: to build on a foundation of obedience or to build on a foundation of disobedience. The word "foundation" means the base or groundwork on which you build something. All buildings have to

have a foundation or they would topple over right from the start. Each builder chooses a foundation. Jesus is saying that those who build their lives on obedience to the Word of God have built upon the firm foundation of Jesus Christ which cannot be shaken.

MATTHEW 7:25

"...and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

When the storms of life come to beat against our "building," like sorrow, temptation, hopelessness, disappointment, unfairness, persecution, loss, we will not be wrecked because our character is built on the Word of God which is strong and sure. With a character built on His sayings, we can weather the storm and stand to the very end unmoved. **We must hear and do the Word of God.**

There will be storms and problems in every one of our lives. Jesus doesn't say, "Come to Me and you will never have problems again." But what He does say is that if we build our lives upon Him and the foundation of His word then when those problems hit us we won't be swept away. Our lives will be upon a solid rock that can't be moved no matter what. So what we learn from this picture is that we need to obey the Lord and build our lives on the solid rock of His word.

MATTHEW 7:26-27

"Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

What is different about the person in this verse? He chooses to disobey the teaching of Jesus. What does Jesus call him? Foolish! What kind of foundation has he chosen to build on? Sand. Have you ever gone to the beach and stood where the water meets the sand? Did you ever stand there with your feet in the water for a while? What happened? The sand erodes away and you begin to sink. Sand is loose and shaky, isn't it? What would happen to a real house built on sand? It would be swept away with the tide. **We must hear and do the Word of God.**

So we need to be careful not to build our lives on shifting sand. What kinds of things are shifting in life? Our opinions or ideas can change. What the world tells us changes all the time. We can't count on things we see in movies or television to be truth. If it doesn't measure up to the standard of the Bible then we need to reject it from our lives. If we put our confidence in anything other than the Lord then when the storm comes we will certainly be swept away!

How Firm a Foundation?

Bring two pie plates to class; one with a lump of play dough, another with some sand. Wet the sand so that it will hold together. Take some toothpicks and form a "tee-pee" by pressing the ends of the toothpicks into the play dough in one plate and the sand in another.

Pour water from a pitcher over each of the "tee-pees". The play dough "tee-pee" should stand firm, the sand "tee-pee" should fall apart.

Explain to the children that the "tee-pee" in the clay is like the house on the rock. It will stand firm when the storms come. But the "tee-pee" in the sand will fall down immediately. This is what will happen if we don't build our lives on the Rock (Jesus). **We must hear and do the Word of God.**

Jesus did not say the two people's houses looked different; He did not even say the two people looked any different. Only one thing was noticeably different; what was it? The foundation they built on. Even if we build with the same kind of bricks and with the same materials and directions, it is the foundation that counts.

James 1:22 tells us to “be doers of the Word and not hearers only.” If one does not obey Jesus, he is building on the sand; although, it is possible that he calls himself a Christian. Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). Our love for Jesus should cause us to build our lives upon the rock of His Word. As we remain obedient to our Lord and Savior, Jesus, we will not be washed away when hard times come. **We must hear and do the Word of God.**

MATTHEW 7:28-29

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Again, Jesus astonished the people with His heavenly wisdom and His truth. He was like no other teacher there had ever been. He still is. No one can surpass Jesus. He is the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, God eternal. He is the only stability we can build on. The apostle Paul built his character on the word of God and that is why he could say,

"We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed..."

"Sandy Land"

Lead your class in the chorus, "Sandy Land":

Don't build your house on the sandy land,
Don't' build it to near the shore.
Well, it might look kinda' nice,
But you'll have to build it twice,
Oh, you'll have to build your house once more.

You better build your house upon the Rock.
Set a good foundation on a solid spot.
Well, the storms may come and go,
But the peace of God you will know.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to "hear" and to "do" the word of God. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.