



Insights & Ideas

FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 7

The House Built on the Rock

Read Matt. 7:24–27. This little parable from Jesus sums up an entire year's worth of rock-solid themes — two men, two houses. One built a house on the rock so that when the storms came, the house didn't fall. But the other man built a house on sand. When the storms came, that house fell with a great crash.

The parable warns against those who treat the Word of God as if it is merely an academic exercise — something to be studied, but nothing more. We must be hearers and doers of the Word. But most importantly, we must see that our foundation is Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh! The Word of God brings comfort only when we allow it to penetrate our sinful lives. We live in a world that is not scarce in regard to hearers of God's Word, but sadly the numbers are rapidly dwindling for those that stand firm and committed to the rock-solid teachings of Jesus. The painful truth is that we're always exposed to the storms of life, personally and globally. Comfort and strength are found only in Jesus and His Word. If our foundation is the

truths of God, written and embodied, then we are strong and cannot be shaken.

The temptations indeed crash around us. We are tempted to concentrate on professional success and material gain. But when those storms rise up to test and destroy us, we only remain secure if we are firmly entrenched upon the unshakable Word of God.



Spiritual and Social Living

Read the parable of the wise and foolish builders from a children's Bible. To introduce this story in a different way, there is a great Lego Parable video on YouTube. (See youtube.com/watch?v=TAILVIHZIzU.)

This parable embodies the theme of the year so perfectly. In a nutshell, it says that you need God as No. 1 in your life.

Wellness

Foolish and Wise Relay

You will need: a large poster board or blank wall, as well as pictures of children obeying and disobeying rules, such as riding a bike without a helmet, not listening to Mom and Dad, stealing, praying, helping someone, etc. To play, students grab a picture and decide which board it should be placed on, the foolish (disobey) board or the wise (obey) board. They run to the correct board and place their picture on it.

Communication Arts

Rock Letters

Print out a sheet of paper with letters on it. Have the students roll a letter dice and cover up the letter rolled with a small rock or dot painter.

Discovering the World

Foolish and Wise Relay

Discover the science of building by giving the students materials to build a house, such as craft sticks, toothpicks, glue, marshmallows or other materials.

You can also discover the parable a little further with a science experiment. Get two clear containers and fill one with sand. Place a large rock in the other. Label the container filled with sand "the foolish builder" and the other "the wise builder." Add a paper cup upside down in each container. Pour a pitcher of water in each container. Talk about how the rock (Jesus) stays firm and doesn't move.

Expressive Arts

Rock Letters

Print out a sheet of paper with letters on it. Have the students roll a letter dice and cover up the letter rolled with a small rock or dot painter.