

# Parable - The Wise and Foolish Builders

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***Through this lesson, children will learn that when Jesus is our Lord, we follow His teachings and will do what He tells us.***

## TOPICS

Parables, Following Jesus, Foolishness, Preparedness, Wisdom

### AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Have several decks of playing cards on a table. Have the children work as teams or individually to see who can build the largest house of cards. Before class begins take a few moments to ask them why it was so hard to build a house out of cards. Card houses are very unstable, the slightest breeze or a slight bump of the table will send the cards crashing down.

**Double Trouble (Optional Object Talk) [page 3](#)**

### MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

**"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord."**

**James 1:5-7 NIV**

Read the verse together several times then give the children the worksheet and have them fill in the missing words. Worksheet available: [page 6](#)

### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

#### Introduction:

Would you want to live in a sand castle? Although it may be interesting for a few minutes, you would soon find the sand tumbling down around you. Sadly, some people build their whole lives around something that is just as unstable. Let's open our Bibles and learn how we can build our lives around something that will last forever.

**Read Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49**

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What question does Jesus ask in Luke 6:46? (*Why do we call Him "Lord, Lord" and then do not do what He says.*)
2. What is the most important part of a house and why? (*The foundation. Without a strong foundation the house is unstable.*)
3. Is it easy to dig a foundation for a house? (*No, you must dig deep and lay a good footing.*)
4. Jesus' words are a rock on which we can build a solid foundation for our lives. How can we ensure that we base our lives on Jesus' words? (*Read the Bible daily (dig deep), learn from it and then live how it tells us to live.*)
5. Jesus says that the person who hears His words and does not put them into practice is like what? (*Like a man who built his house on the sand, foolish.*)
6. When the rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew what happened to the house that was built on sand? (*It came crashing down.*)
7. When storms and troubles come into our lives, how can we make sure that we don't come crashing down? (*Build our lives on God's rock, Jesus Christ. Jesus will help us during our times of trouble.*)
8. Do you know anyone that is building his or her life on sand? You may want to encourage that person to learn more about Jesus.

### CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

**Wise Builder (Object Talk) [page 4](#)**

### ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

**Worldliness or Godliness (Activity) [page 5](#)**

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### **APPLICATION (4 minutes)**

It would be foolish to join a team and then not go to the practices or show up for the games. It would be ridiculous to buy an expensive grand piano and then not play it. Likewise we would be fools to call Jesus Lord and then not do what He tells us to do. When we read God's word and do what it says, our lives will have a strong foundation.

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## DOUBLE TROUBLE

*Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. Proverbs 12:19*

### TOPICS:

False Teaching, Integrity, Lying, Truth

### MATERIALS:

Deck of cards  
Several wooden blocks

### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You will build a two-story house using the deck of cards. This will represent the instability of lying. You will then build a house using the blocks. This will represent the stability of telling the truth.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

I am going to build two houses. I am going to use this deck of cards to build the first house. *(Build a small house using the deck of cards while you continue speaking.)*

Card houses are not very stable, so please do not shake the table. In fact, sometimes you have to hold your breath as you build card houses. Lying is a lot like building a house out of cards. At times, you may be on edge, hoping that no one finds out that you have told a lie. You may have to tell another lie to cover up the first lie. Before you know it, you will be in double trouble, telling more and more lies to cover up the first one. Soon it will be difficult to distinguish the truth from the lie.

However one thing is certain: eventually, the whole thing will come crashing down around you. Just like this card house. *(Bump the table or blow on the cards to knock it down.)* Now, I will build a house using these blocks. *(Build small house using blocks as you continue speaking.)*

Compared to the card house, the block house is very strong and stable. You do not have to be troubled when you build a house of blocks. You can breathe easily when you build a block house. This block house is a lot like the Truth, you do not have to worry about it falling down. The Truth is dependable and trust worthy. The Truth endures forever. When you tell the truth, people know that they can count on you.

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## WISE BUILDER

*This Object Talk will show why it is important to build on a solid foundation to weather life's storms. That foundation is the Word of God.*

### TOPICS:

Foolishness, Wisdom, Word of God

### MATERIALS:

1 medium size rock  
2 paper cups, 1 small bowl  
1 or 2 cups of moist sand  
1 medium to large casserole dish  
Pitcher of water



### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Before class, take slightly moistened sand and fill a small bowl. Draw windows and a door on two paper cups.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

During class, you will put the empty casserole dish on the table so that all the children can see it. Then you will take the small bowl with the sand in it and tip it upside down inside the casserole dish to make something like a small sandcastle. Do not worry if a little crumbles. Place the medium size rock at the other end of the casserole dish. Then place a paper cup house on both the sand and the rock. You will then pour water over both to show how a house built on a solid foundation can withstand the heavy storms.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Do you believe that anyone could be so foolish that he or she would build a house on top of sand? *(Take one of the paper cups and place it on top of the sand.)* Wiser people will build their house on a good foundation. *(Take the second cup and place it on top of the rock.)*

Which house do you think will last, and which one do you think will wash away? You know the Bible tells us in Matthew 7:24-27, "Anyone who hears the words of God and puts them into practice is like the wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." *(Take the pitcher of water and pour a little water on the rock.)*

Jesus said, "But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." *(Take the pitcher of water and pour a little water on the sand and the house will fall.)*

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to put God's Word into practice?
2. How can God's Word make us stronger?
3. What kind of storms in our lives can God help us withstand?
4. Can anyone give any examples on how some people may be building their lives on a foundation of sand?
5. What are some ways we can build our lives on the rock?

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## WORLDLINESS OR GODLINESS

*Children will use current events to see the presence of worldliness and godliness in our daily lives.*

### TOPICS:

Godliness, Knowing God, Worldliness

### MATERIALS:

Several recent newspapers  
Highlighters



### DURATION:

From 15 to 20 minutes

### PREPARATION

Bring enough newspapers to class with you in order to give each child several pages containing current events. You may want to select the best pages beforehand. The kids will find as many articles as possible that tell of something bad (worldliness) or tell of something good (godliness or righteousness). After a few minutes, the kids will share their discoveries and you will list them on the board.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Explain to the class as you give them a few pages of newspaper and a highlighter that they are to find articles that tell of something bad that happened, or something good that happened, and circle the article or highlight the heading. Tell them to find as many as possible until you tell them to stop. As they are searching, draw the following chart on the board.

Worldliness	Godliness
Example: Two youths arrested for shoplifting	Example: Local student finishes first in math contest

After a few minutes, have the kids share their discoveries, and list them in the appropriate column on the chart. When the two lists are complete, discuss with the class.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How many articles do we have that were bad? How many were good?
2. Which article do you think is the worse? Which article is the best?
3. Discuss how some of the articles demonstrate worldliness and godliness or righteousness.
4. Are you surprised that there are so many bad things listed, why or why not?

This activity shows us that the world today is still full of worldliness. However, we see godliness too. In the days of Noah, the world was very corrupt. Nevertheless, Noah was a righteous man, and so his family was safe from the flood. Noah lived according to God's will. He did not give in to the ideas of the wicked people during his time. The Bible says, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15 NIV) By "the world", we mean anything that belongs to the devil, such as greed, pride, selfishness, etc. Instead, we can live a righteous life by being compassionate, kind, humble, honest and patient.

Find **James 1:5-7** in your Bibles, and then fill in the missing words below.

If any of you lacks \_\_\_\_\_, you should ask God, who gives \_\_\_\_\_ to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by the wind. That person should not \_\_\_\_\_ to receive anything from the \_\_\_\_\_;

