

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, dominoes, 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, dominoes, or cards depending on their ages and abilities.

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

Explain that today they 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 all building a "house." That might be surprising to you! You are 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 are talking about a house of character; we are building our lives.

What is character? Character is the good or bad qualities that we have. Qualities are the things being built into our house, 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 is 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 said was truth, as pure as gold. How wonderful it is to be able to read those very words in our Bibles. We can pretend

that we are sitting at Jesus' feet with the multitude listening to Him teach as we read His words to us in the Bible.

As Jesus finished up His sermon, He explained that it was not enough to "hear" His Words. We must "do" them. To "do" is different than to "hear"; Jesus wants us to do those things that He tells us, not just listen. He wants us to let it sink in and change our hearts. We let it re-make our minds. His Word becomes the filter for everything that enters 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 calls 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. Why does obeying God make us wise? God has the best in store for us, and if someone has the best for you, it would be wise to listen to and obey them. It is obedience that makes the difference as we build our house. **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" refers to 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, or 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 does not say, “Come to Me and you will never have problems again.” Rather He says to us, “build your life on Me and the foundation of My Word, then you will be able to stand against the problems that come at you.” Our lives will be upon a solid rock that cannot be moved, no matter what. 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 try standing 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, right? 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 cannot count on things we see in movies or television to be truth. If it does not measure up to the standard of the Bible, 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, but 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 do not 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 truth. He was like no other teacher there had ever been. He still is the greatest teacher ever. 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.