

DAY 1—Foundation of Life

Bible Story: Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-29)

Point: Jesus' love is the foundation for the rest of my life.

Younger Preschool Point: Jesus helps me know how to live.

BIBLE STORY

One day Jesus was speaking to a crowd of people. He told them a parable (a story Jesus told to help people understand the kingdom of God) about two builders to help them understand why it was so important to listen to His words and do what He said.

Jesus began by telling the crowd that everyone who heard the words He spoke and acted on them would be like the wise man who built his house on a rock. The house had a strong foundation, so that when the rains fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew against it, the house did not collapse.

However those who heard Jesus' words but did not act on them would be like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. His house did not have a strong foundation so when the rains fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew against the house it came crashing down.

Jesus' teaching amazed the people listening to Him. Jesus told this parable to help us understand that when we listen and obey Him, we will have a strong foundation for whatever happens in our lives.

TALKING POINTS

- Do you know what the words wise and foolish mean?
- In construction, what is a foundation?
- What is a firm foundation?
- Jesus wanted people to know how to live their life and He used this parable about building a house to help us understand that when we listen and obey Him, we will have a strong foundation for whatever happens in our lives.
- When you listen to and obey God, it provides a great foundation for life!
- Do you believe God has done a good work in you?
- Philippians 1:6 is a great reminder that God is not done with anyone!
- God's plan for you will continue until Jesus comes back. God wants you to serve Him forever. He promises to never leave you.

MUSIC

Build My Life on You

The Rest of My Life



CRAFT DIY Tool Boxes

Materials included:

Wooden toolbox kit
Foam construction stickers
Electrical tape
Permanent Marker

Materials you can add:

Paint, chalk, markers, tools, etc...

Every builder needs a place to keep their tools! Make your own handyman storage with the DIY Unfinished Wood Tool Boxes! You can wrap electrical tape around the handle to make it easier to hold if you want. Find some items around the house to personalize your tool box. The possibilities are endless...make it your own!

Construction Flag Obstacle Course Make an obstacle course outside that kids can run through, kick a ball through, walk backwards through, ect. You can try it guiding them through with their eyes blindfolded!

- Kids Under Construction flags
- Ball you can kick
- Any other items you can imagine

Measure Up Broad Jump Have kids line up at the starting line and then do long jumps! You can be creative in how you ask them to jump as well...one foot, running start, eyes closed, tongue out, ect.

- Electrical tape for a starting line

MISSIONS Italy with the Worthy Family

Alessia and Ben are missionary kids who live with their parents in Arezzo, Italy! Italy is easy to recognize on any world map, as it's the country that is shaped like a high heel boot. Ben and Alessia's two older sisters, Micah and Emma, are away at boarding school. As a family they love to tell people about Jesus. In fact, last year Micah got to go on a mission trip to Israel and it really had a big impact on her. Just recently Emma got back from a mission trip to Uganda, in Africa, where she got to tell Africans about Jesus.

Do you know what Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, and Leonardo da Vinci all have in common? For one thing they are all Italian, and they are famous. Italy is home to a lot of famous people and places in history. One of the most famous places is the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The tower is actually a bell tower, and it leans because it was built on a swamp—not a very good foundation. But Jesus' love provides a strong foundation for our lives that will last.

Before the Worthys can tell someone about Jesus, they need to build a friendship with them. So Alessia and Ben's family find ways to make friends by hosting parties, putting on kids camps, coordinating volunteer groups, doing outreach events, fun activities, and often inviting Italian families over to their house for a big meal. Once the relationship is on a good foundation, then the people are open to hear more about Jesus.

The Worthys love people and making new friends. It reminds them of all the stories in the Bible of Jesus hanging out with people He loved and sharing meals with them in hopes they would believe in Him. That's a powerful love!

Adult Information for Bible Story

Jesus often used parables to help His listeners understand a spiritual truth. It is interesting to notice first, WHEN did Jesus share this parable? In Matthew it comes after three chapters of Jesus' sermon on the mount, the longest continuous recorded series of teachings by Jesus. Luke also shares this parable, and it too comes at the end of his abbreviated account of the same sermon. Needless to say, Jesus was referring back to the wealth of spiritual teaching He had just shared with His listeners. Doesn't that make you think, "Wait! Then what did He say?" Jesus even began this parable with the word, "Therefore," a word that means to pay attention to what had previously been said.

In this session of VBS, this parable encourages kids to remember what they have learned from God's Word about who Jesus is, why He came, and what He taught us. The parable talks about wise and foolish builders. The words "wise" and "foolish" are not references to intellect. Rather, Jesus is saying those who listen to and obey His words are wise. Those who ignore them are foolish.

The Old Testament often depicted the wrath of God as a storm. Difficulties and tragedies in life are often referred to as storms. Storms may also come in the form of spiritual attacks by the enemy. Either way, Jesus wanted His followers to know that those who hear His words and act on them will have the foundation necessary to withstand any storm.

We know that we can trust the solid foundation we have in Jesus. He loves us. We can't do anything to make him love us more, nor can we do anything to cause Him to love us less. He loved us enough to die for us and He will keep His promise of love and constant presence. We may experience tiny storms today or major storms in the days ahead, but Jesus is our foundation and He will never be shaken. We may feel battered by the wind and rain. We may even have moments when we feel like life's storms have "smashed" us. But if we put our faith in Him, we can know our foundation is firm.