Preschool–Grade 5

Wise and Foolish Builders Craft

A house on the rock and a house on the sand that falls · Matthew 7:24–27 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



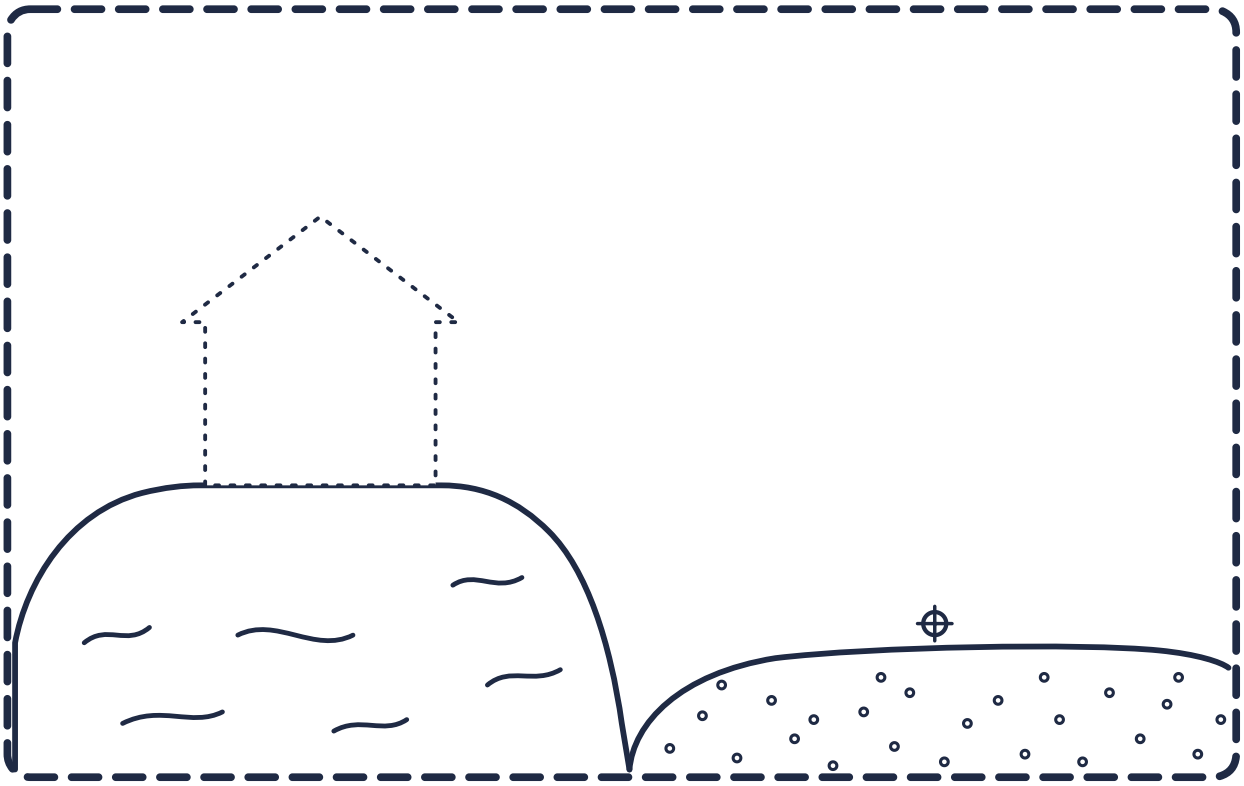
Harder

Medium (left): a card with a light blue sky, a big gray rock on the left and yellow sand on the right. Two houses that look the same, with light brown walls, red roofs, dark brown doors and yellow windows: one is glued on top of the rock, and one stands on the sand, held by a paper fastener so it can turn. Harder (right): the same card with a gray rain cloud with dark blue rain along the top, blue flood water along the bottom, and a white winds piece in the sky. The house on the rock still stands, and the house on the sand has fallen over on its side.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Card: color the sky light blue, the rock gray and the sand yellow

A house is glued on the dotted spot on the rock. The other house turns on a paper fastener through the + on the sand, so it can stand up and fall down.



2 houses: walls light brown, roofs red, doors dark brown, windows yellow

The house with the + goes on the sand.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 7:24 (KJV)

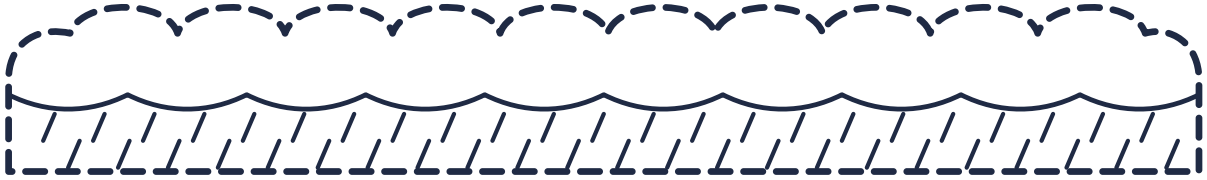
Verse card: glue it on the back

of the card, the verse facing out.

Both houses look the same. The difference: one is built "upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24), one "upon the sand" (7:26).

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level



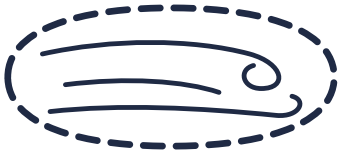
Rain cloud: color the cloud gray and the rain lines dark blue

Glue it along the top of the card. "The rain descended" (Matthew 7:25).



Floods: color the water blue

Glue it along the bottom of the card, over the rock and the sand. "The floods came" (7:25).



Winds: leave it white

Glue it in the sky between the two houses.
"The winds blew" (7:25).

How to add the rain, the floods and the winds

1. Make the card from page 2, with the verse card glued on the back, one house glued on the rock and the other house on its paper fastener on the sand. Turn the sand house so it stands up straight.
2. Color the cloud gray and the rain lines dark blue. Color the floods blue. Leave the winds piece white.
3. Cut out the three pieces on their dashed lines.
4. Glue the rain cloud along the top of the card, above both houses. Glue the floods strip along the bottom of the card, over the bottom of the rock and the sand. Glue the winds piece in the sky between the two houses. Don't glue anything on top of the house on the sand, so it can still turn.
5. Tell what they mean. The same rain, floods and winds came to both houses (Matthew 7:25, 7:27). The house on the rock "fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." Turn the house on the sand until it falls over on its side: "it fell: and great was the fall of it."

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/wise-and-foolish-builders-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one paper fastener (brad) per child, light blue, gray, yellow, light brown, red and dark brown crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, and a sharp pencil for poking holes (grown-ups only). For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a dark blue and a blue crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's card, 2 houses and verse card, glue the verse card on the back of the card, and put the paper fastener through the house with the + mark and the + on the card. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out the pieces, glue the verse card on the back and fasten the sand house on. Kids color the card and the houses and glue the other house on the rock. Then they turn the sand house over while you say, "The house on the sand fell down!"
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, glue the verse card on the back, glue one house on the rock and fasten the other house on the sand. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level, then add the rain cloud, the floods and the winds from page 3 (Matthew 7:25, 7:27). They say Matthew 7:24 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there are no people: the craft draws no people, and never Jesus. The two houses tell the story Jesus told. They look the same on purpose: the difference is what each one is built on, "upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24) or "upon the sand" (Matthew 7:26), and Jesus says that is the difference between doing His sayings and not doing them.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** on the card, color the sky light blue, the rock gray and the sand yellow. Color both houses the same way: walls light brown, roofs red, doors dark brown and windows yellow.
2. **Cut:** cut out the card, the 2 houses and the verse card on the dashed lines.
3. **Glue the verse card:** turn the card face down. Glue the verse card on its back, with the verse facing out.
4. **Build on the rock:** turn the card face up. Glue the house without the + mark on the dotted spot on the rock. "A wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24).
5. **Build on the sand:** a grown-up pokes a hole through the + on the other house and the + on the card. Push the paper fastener through the house and the card, and open its legs flat on the back. "A foolish man, which built his house upon the sand" (7:26). **Foolish** means not wise.
6. **Tell the story:** pat your knees for the rain. The rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon both houses (7:25, 7:27). The house on the rock fell not. Turn the house on the sand until it falls over: "it fell: and great was the fall of it" (7:27). Turn the card over and read Matthew 7:24 together.

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the rock. Who is like the wise man who built his house upon a rock? *(Whosoever hears Jesus' sayings and does them, Matthew 7:24)*
- Point to the sand. Who is like the foolish man? *(Every one that hears Jesus' sayings and does them not, 7:26)*
- What three things beat upon both houses? *(The rain, the floods and the winds, 7:25, 7:27)*
- Why did the house on the rock fall not? *(It was founded upon a rock, 7:25)*
- Turn the sand house. What happened to it? *(It fell: and great was the fall of it, 7:27)*
- What is one thing Jesus said that you can do this week? *(For example, forgive others, Matthew 6:14, or treat others the way you want to be treated, 7:12)*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** whosoever = anyone; heareth = hears; sayings = the things Jesus said; doeth = does; liken = compare; descended = came down; floods = rushing water; beat upon = hit again and again; founded upon a rock = built on a rock that held it up; great was the fall of it = it fell all the way down.
- **What the Bible says:** this is a parable, a story Jesus told to teach a lesson, at the end of His teaching on the mountain (Matthew 5:1–2, 7:28). The Bible doesn't name the builders or describe the houses, so the two houses on the card are plain and look alike. Jesus names three things that beat upon the houses, the rain, the floods and the winds (7:25, 7:27), so the harder level has those three pieces.
- **Poking the holes:** set the house and the card on a ball of play dough or a folded towel and push a sharp pencil through the + marks. Only grown-ups poke the holes. Open the fastener legs flat on the back so they don't scratch.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, glue the verse card on and fasten the sand house ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Harder level:** keep the rain cloud and the floods strip off the house on the sand, so it can still turn and fall.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free wise and foolish builders Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/wise-and-foolish-builders.

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