Preschool–Grade 6

The Wise and Foolish Builders

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Hear Jesus' words and do them.
Bible passage: Matthew 7:24–27. Read Matthew 7:24–29 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" *Matthew 7:24 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, toy blocks, a pillow, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 7:24. Set the pillow on the floor next to a clear, hard spot.

1. Opening game: Build It Up (5 minutes)

Kids take turns stacking blocks into a little "house" on the hard floor. Then they try to build one on top of the soft pillow. Ask: *Which house stands up? Which one falls down?* Say: "The hard floor holds the house up. Today Jesus tells a story about two houses."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 7. Say: "This is in God's Word. Jesus told this story." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus sat on a mountain and taught the people (Matthew 5:1–2). *(Sit down. Put a hand by your ear.)*

Jesus told a story about two men (7:24). *(Hold up two fingers.)*

A wise man built his house upon a rock (7:24). *(Hammer with your fist. Stomp: rock!)*

The rain came down (7:25). *(Wiggle fingers down like rain.)*

The floods came. *(Wave your arms low like water.)*

The winds blew. *(Blow, "Whoo!")*

Did the house fall? No! It fell not (7:25). *(Stand tall. Make a roof with your arms.)*

Say it with me: "The house on the rock stood!"

A foolish man built his house upon the sand (7:26). *(Hammer. Wiggle like soft sand.)*

The rain came down. The floods came. The winds blew (7:27). *(Rain fingers, water arms, blow.)*

The house fell down! Great was the fall of it (7:27). *(Sit down slowly on the floor.)*

Jesus said the wise man is like a person who hears His words and does them (7:24).

Say it with me: "Hear it and do it!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Where did the wise man build his house? *(Upon a rock, Matthew 7:24)*
2. What happened to the house on the sand? *(It fell down, 7:27)*
3. What does Jesus want us to do with His words? *(Hear them and do them, 7:24)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said whoever hears His words and does them is like 'a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.'" Teach the motions: tap your head for "a wise man," hammer your fist for "which built his house," and stomp for "upon a rock." Say it with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 7:24" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: House on the Rock (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big gray rock with a house on top. Then they draw rain falling all around. While they color, ask: "Did the house on the rock fall? What does Jesus want us to do?" Kids who finish early can build block houses on the hard floor again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for Your words.
Help me hear them and do them. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving. Let every child stomp on "rock" and wiggle on "sand." If they get wiggly, do the rain, the floods and the winds motions again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is upset that the house fell: say that Jesus' story doesn't tell about anyone getting hurt, because it is a story Jesus told to teach us. Jesus told it so we would build on the rock: hear His words and do them.

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