Preschool–Grade 6

The Wise and Foolish Builders

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus wants us to hear His words and do them.
Bible passage: Matthew 7:24–29. Read it before class, and read Matthew 5:1–2 too.
Memory verse: "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)*
You need: a Bible, 8 paper rectangles for "bricks," a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 8 bricks (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 7:24.

1. Opening game: Hear It and Do It (5 minutes)

Round one: say, "Just listen. Don't move." Then call out actions: "Touch your nose! Jump two times! Clap your hands!" The kids only listen. Round two: say, "Now hear it **and** do it," and call out the same actions while they do them. Ask: *Which round got anything done? Hearing or doing?* Say: "Today Jesus tells us a story about two men who built houses. One of them is like a person who hears Jesus' words **and does them**."

2. Bible story: Two Houses (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 7, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

One day Jesus saw great crowds of people. He went up on a mountain and sat down, and He taught them (Matthew 5:1–2). Jesus taught many things that day. He said to pray to God (6:9). He said to forgive people (6:14). He said to treat other people the way you want them to treat you (7:12). At the end, Jesus told a story to teach a lesson. A story Jesus told to teach a lesson is called a **parable**.

Jesus said, "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (7:24). That means anyone who hears what Jesus says **and does it** is like a wise man who built his house on a rock. **Liken** means compare.

Then the rain came down. The floods came: rushing water all around. The winds blew, and they beat on that house, hitting it hard. Did the house fall? No! "It fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (7:25). It was built on the rock, so it stood.

The story continues: Then Jesus told about another man. Anyone who hears what Jesus says and **does not do it** is like a foolish man, "which built his house upon the sand" (7:26). **Foolish** means not wise.

The same rain came down. The same floods came, and the same winds blew and beat on that house. And it fell! **Read Matthew 7:27 from your Bible:** "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." Say: "That means it fell all the way down with a great crash."

Both houses had the same rain, the same floods and the same winds. The difference was what each one was built on. Jesus said the difference between the wise man and the foolish man is this: both hear His sayings, but only one **does** them (7:24, 7:26).

When Jesus finished, the people were astonished, which means amazed. He taught "as one having authority" (7:28–29). That means Jesus taught like the One who has the right to tell us what is true.

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did the wise man build his house? *(Upon a rock, Matthew 7:24)*
2. Where did the foolish man build his house? *(Upon the sand, 7:26)*
3. What three things beat upon the houses? *(The rain, the floods and the winds, 7:25, 7:27)*
4. What happened to the house on the rock? *(It fell not, 7:25)* And the house on the sand? *(It fell, and great was the fall of it, 7:27)*
5. Who is like the wise man? *(Whosoever hears Jesus' sayings and does them, 7:24)*

4. Memory verse: Build the House (5 minutes)

Tape the 8 bricks up from the bottom, like building a wall: *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.* Explain the old words: **whosoever** means anyone, **heareth** means hears, **sayings** means the things Jesus said, **doeth** means does, and **liken** means compare. Read the verse together. Then take one brick away and read it again. Keep taking bricks away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus wants us to hear His words **and** do them, like the wise man who built on the rock. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! One day people heard Peter preach about Jesus, and they asked, 'What shall we do?' (Acts 2:37). Peter told them: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4). The people that day heard it and did it: they gladly received his word and were baptized (Acts 2:41)."
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.
This week: pick one thing Jesus said, like "forgive" or "treat others the way you want to be treated," and do it every day.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **wise and foolish builders word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/wise-and-foolish-builders-word-search), the coloring page or the craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/wise-and-foolish-builders), or **Rock or Sand?** Read each one. If the child hears what Jesus said and does it, everyone stomps and shouts, "Rock!" If the child hears it and doesn't do it, everyone wiggles and says, "Sand!"

1. Jesus said to forgive (Matthew 6:14). Sam's brother says sorry, and Sam forgives him. *(Rock!)*
2. Jesus said to treat others the way you want to be treated (7:12). Mia heard that at church, but she grabs a toy from her friend. *(Sand!)*
3. Jesus said to pray (6:9). Ben talks to God before bed. *(Rock!)*
4. Jesus said to do good to them that hate you (5:44). A boy is mean to Lily, so she is mean back. *(Sand!)*
5. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine" with good works (5:16). Ava helps clean up without being asked. *(Rock!)*
   After each sand one, ask: *What could they do to build on the rock instead?*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Jesus' words. Help us not just hear them, but do them, like the wise man who built his house upon a rock. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks whether the two men were real: Jesus told this story to teach a lesson. He said, "I will liken him unto a wise man," which means compare. The Bible doesn't give the builders names. The lesson is true: hear Jesus' sayings and do them.

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