

Lesson Overview

Lesson 3 leans into a parable in Matthew 7. We'll discuss how it's wise to make God our foundation. Children deepen their understanding by building towers on some shaky and firm foundations. Through these hands-on experiments, we uncover what Jesus considers wise and foolish living.

Lesson 3:

Wisdom for a Lifetime – Matthew 7:24-29, John 6:35

Bottom Line:

God's way is our firm foundation.

Memory Verse (Series):

"Jesus replied, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" John 6:35

Schedule

1. Welcome & Connection (10 minutes)

Kids check in, play together, and connect with leaders. Encourage older kids to include younger ones. Give prompts for questions the teacher can ask to build relationships. Lessons 2-4: review the previous lesson's take home challenge.

2. Group Gather & Bible Focus (10 minutes)

Short lesson with Scripture and discussion. This should be very engaging, with lots of opportunity for movement and kids participating.

3. Review & Practice (10 minutes)

Practice engaging with Scripture from the lesson and the series memory verse.

4. Prayer & Worship Group Activity (15 minutes)

Reinforce the truth that God has a plan through creative, hands-on and meaningful discussion. Ideally kids are working in pairs or groups. Either a game, craft, or other activity. Incorporate a prayer or worship practice.

6. Wrap-Up & Structured Free Play (10 minutes)

Review the main point, play together, and give a take-home challenge.

SUPPLIES

1. Welcome & Connection

- Items for structured free play
- Upbeat worship music (playlist or speaker)

2. Group Gather & Bible Focus

- 2 clear bins
- Flour or dry sand for one clear bin
- Rock slab that fits in a clear bin
- 2 identically built little Lego houses (2 Jenga blocks)
- **Memory Verse Bible Cards**

3. Review & Practice

- Bibles
- **Clue Cards**

4. Prayer & Worship Activity

- **Foundation Cards**
- Scissors (prep only)

5. Optional Closing Game

- Building materials (Legos, MagnaTiles, Jenga blocks, etc)

Welcome & Connection (10 min)

As kids arrive, invite them into structured snack and/or free play (coloring, games, playdoh, Legos, etc.). Actively coach older kids to notice younger kids and invite them into what they are doing. Play upbeat worship music as kids play/create.

Welcome, friends. I am so glad you are here today. We are in lesson 3 of our Weird Science series. Today we're going to hear a story Jesus told about two builders to remind us that our foundation matters.

Connection Prompts:

- Who tried last week's take-home challenge? What happened? (To notice people who might feel left out and be kind to them by inviting them in)
- What's the best way to build a super tall tower?
- How do you feel when a storm is coming?
- When do you feel strong?
- When do you feel shaky?

Give a two minute warning before transition.

Group Gather & Bible Focus (10 min)

Prep Ahead of Time:

- Set up 2 clear bins, one with loose flour or dry sand and the other with a rock.
- Build 2 identical little Lego houses or uses two Jenga blocks as identical "houses"



Gather kids into a seated large group where everyone can see you. Invite kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 7:24-29

Hey Scientists! Today we are learning about a story Jesus told called The Wise and Foolish Builders. What we build upon determines whether the structure we build stands or falls. In today's Bible story Jesus uses the idea of building on rock or sand to show us that our spiritual lives need to be built on something solid. That's what we're going to talk about today. As we read the Bible story, when you hear the word "Rock" you'll stomp your feet, "Rain" or "Wind" you'll wave your arms, and "Fell" you'll crouch down.

Read through the Bible story and intentionally leave space and lead kids to interact when you say the prompt.

What are some "storms" you might face in life that will test whether your house is built on rock or sand?

Ask a volunteer to stand behind both prepared buckets with the houses. Have them push down on the houses to apply the "pressure of life" to both houses as we name "storms" and have kids observe what happens to the houses on each foundation.

Clue #1: Psalm 119:105
Clue #2 – John 6:35
Clue 3 – James 1:22
Clue 4 – Psalm 119:11

Memory Verse Pyramid

*Prep: Cut apart **Memory Verse Cards**. Tape cards under random chairs or other items in the classroom.*

Keep kids in groups. Assign each group a color. (blue, purple, orange, or black).

Repeat the Memory Verse together several times:

Memory Verse: “Jesus replied, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” John 6:35

When I say “go,” your team will work together to find the memory verse cards in your team color. There are 9 cards for each team.

Have kids search for their cards and return to their seats.

Now we are going to work together to build a pyramid with our verses in the correct order. When you are done, there will be 4 words on the bottom, 3 words in the middle, and two words at the top. Talk with each other and decide what order these words go in. There is no rush. Help each other. Encourage each other.

Walk around, helping groups as needed. Read the verse together again once assembled.

Great work! It is important to remember that the foundation we build on has to be strong.

The house could not stand because its foundation wasn't solid. This is what Jesus says is foolish. A parable is a short story that Jesus uses to teach truth, so this parable isn't really about houses. It is about building your life on Jesus. To be wise is to hear AND do what Jesus says. It is foolish to hear what He says and ignore it. When we don't walk in God's ways by listening to His word, spending time with Him, and trusting Him, we will fall like this house. Jesus is telling us that our lives should be built upon God. This is wise. His way is our foundation.

Let kids press down on the sand and rock to observe the differences.

This experiment works because there are air pockets between the particles of sand. They are too small for us to see them, but since the sand moves when we push on it we know they are there. That's why we can make foot imprints in sand just by the weight of our body! But God knew that we needed a firm foundation to build on so He gave us rock!

Bottom Line: God's way is our firm foundation.

Repeat this together 2-3 times.

Review & Practice (10 min)

Bible Detectives

Divide kids into small groups (2-4 per group, mixed ages). Have each group sit in a circle.

You are about to become Bible Detectives. That means you will move, search, and work together. Around the room are **clue cards**. Each clue points to a verse that helps us understand today's truth. When your group finds a card, bring it back and we will talk about it together.

Allow groups to search until they find one card. Consider letting younger kids do the searching, and older kids lead their group to figure out the clues. After each card is found, pause and briefly discuss.

Look at your clue card front and back and look for the verse together. When you think you know it, write it on the card!

Walk around and help groups as needed. When all groups have found the verse, choose one older kid to read the verse aloud.

Prayer & Worship Activity (15 min)

Prayer Activity: Building a Firm Foundation

Supplies: **Foundation cards**

Every choice we make brings us closer to God or further away from Him. Sin is when we do things that separate us from God. The pile in front of you has a mix of choices that will build a firm foundation or a shaky foundation in our lives. Let's sort them.

Rock (Firm Foundation) Cards

- *Praying when I'm worried*
- *Telling the truth*
- *Forgiving someone*
- *Reading the Bible*
- *Listening to wise parents*
- *Choosing kind friends*
- *Obeying even when it's hard*

Sand (Shaky Foundation) Cards

- *Lying to stay out of trouble*
- *Ignoring God's Word*
- *Following the crowd*
- *Being mean to fit in*
- *Only praying when I'm in trouble*
- *Doing what feels good in the moment*

Hold up the Shaky Foundation cards.

These things are the habits that will cause us to have a shaky foundation in our life.

Hold up the Firm Foundation cards.

These are the habits that we want to build our lives on. I'm sure there are many more examples you all can think of for both categories. Let's take a quiet moment. You do not need to speak out loud. Think about a habit you want to stop doing and one you want to start doing.

Pause briefly.

Jesus, thank You for being our rock. Thank You that when storms come, we don't have to fall apart. Help us not to just hear Your words, but to do what You say. Build our lives on You. Make our hearts strong and steady. Help us recognize Your voice and follow You every day. Give us Your strength to stop the habits that don't bring us closer to You and to start the habits that do. Give us the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Wrap-Up & Structured Free Play (10 min)

Today we learned something really important. God is our strong foundation, and listening to His Word is not enough - we need to do what His Word tells us to do so that we can stand strong in life.

Suggested Discussion Questions:

- What is one thing Jesus told us to do that feels "hard" to do (like being kind to someone mean)?
- Why do you think the foolish builder chose the sand? (Maybe it was easier? Faster?)
- Who helps you build on rock? How can we help our friends build on the Rock too?
- When you have a "stormy" day (a bad day at school), how does remembering God's Word help you stay calm?
- What is something small you do every day that builds your foundation?
- What storm feels scary to you right now?
- What does it look like to obey Jesus at school?
- What happens if we ignore small acts of disobedience?

Bottom Line Review:

Have kids say together: **God's way is our firm foundation.**

Weekly Challenge:

This week, whenever you have to make a choice (like sharing a toy or choosing to tell the truth), ask yourself: "Am I building on sand or rock right now?" * Do one "Rock Action" this week and come back next week ready to tell us how it made you feel "strong."

Closing Prayer:

God, thank You for being a Rock that never shakes. Help us to be more than just listeners, help us be 'Doers' of the Word. When the storms of life come this week, remind us to stand firm on Your promises. We love You, Amen!

Optional Closing Game: Build Together Relay

Split kids into teams, if necessary. Set building materials (Legos, MagnaTiles, Jenga blocks, etc) a distance away from the kids and have them run one person at a time to get one item and race back to add it to their building tower. The goal is to build the tallest tower that can stand for 10 seconds.

Our foundation matters so much as we navigate life.

Ask about the team's choices:

- *What made your tower strong? What will make it fall?*
- *Did you build it quickly or did you build it carefully?*

Play several rounds, challenging them to find ways to build a taller tower.

Clue #1:

Look for a verse that says God's Word is like a lamp and a light.

Clue #2:

This verse tells us that Jesus is the bread of life and meets our deepest needs.

Clue #3:

This verse says don't just listen to the Word, do what it says.

Clue #4:

This verse talks about hiding God's Word in your heart.

book hint:

*longest book of
the Bible*

Chapter:

119

Verse:

119-14=?

book hint:

starts with "J"

Chapter:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ?, 7, 8

book hint:

J__m__s

Chapter:

the beginning

Verse:

2__

book hint:

*longest book of the
Bible*

Chapter:

119

Verse:

*this number rhymes
with "seven"*

Jesus replied,

I am the

bread of life

Whoever comes
to me

will never be

hungry again

Whoever
believes in me

will never be
thirsty.

John 6:35

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John 6:35

Lying to stay
out of trouble

Doing what
feels good in
the moment

Ignoring God's
Word

Choosing "my
way" because I
want to

Following the
crowd

Only praying
before I eat or go
to sleep

Being mean to
fit in

Telling jokes that
hurt someone's
feelings

Only praying
when I'm in
trouble

Praying when
I'm worried

Telling the
truth

Forgiving
someone

Singing songs
that tell the
truth about God

Reading the
Bible

Watching TV shows
that tell the truth
about God

Listening to
wise parents

Praying anytime,
anywhere and
about anything

Choosing kind
friends