LESSON PLAN

THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDER

SERIES: Wisdom
THE POINT: A Wise Person does what God's Word tell us to do
BIBLE STORY: The Wise and Foolish Builder || Matthew 7:24-27
AGE: Grade 3 - Grade 6

ABOUT THIS LESSON

In the final week of the "Wisdom" series, children explore Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builder. Jesus teaches that wisdom is not just about hearing God's Word, but about putting it into action. Both builders faced storms, but only the house built on the rock stood firm. This lesson helps children understand that storms will come in life, but when we build our lives on God's Word and live it out daily, we can remain strong and steady through every challenge.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Learn, understand and retell the story of the wise and foolish builder
- Understand that wisdom is not just learning God's Word, but living it out
- Recognise that storms will come, but building life on God's Word helps us stay strong

BIBLE CONTEXT

Matthew 7:24–27 comes at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus has spent time teaching people how to live God's way. He finishes by explaining that listening to His words is not enough, obedience matters. The wise builder listens and puts Jesus' words into practice, building on solid rock. The foolish builder hears the same words but does not act on them, building on sand. When storms come, only the house built on the rock remains standing. This parable shows that wisdom is shown through obedience and applying God's Word to our lives.

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 2:6 (NIV) "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Pages 2-4 have a variety of different activities to add onto the Link Crew Video!

Make this toolbox your own! Use it in whatever way helps your group dive deeper into the lesson. The goal is deep understanding and great discussions.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDER

START THE CONVERSATION

"Have you ever built a really awesome sandcastle at the beach just for a wave to knock it over?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 3 - 4

1. Both builders heard Jesus' words, but only one obeyed them. What does this teach you about being wise? How can you practise doing what God's Word says?

2. The storms came to both houses, not just one. Why do you think Jesus says storms will happen to everyone? How does trusting God help during hard times?

3. Wisdom is revealed through action. What is one teaching from Jesus that you want to practise more intentionally in your life?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 5 - 6

1. The wise and foolish builders had access to the same teaching. Why do you think some people hear God's Word but don't live it out? What makes obedience difficult sometimes?

2. Jesus declares a wise person as someone who is obedient to Him teachings. How does obedience strengthen your faith over time? Can you think of an example where obedience helped you grow?

3. Storms represent challenges, pressure and hard seasons.What kinds of storms do kids face today? How can God's Word help you stand firm when those storms come?

FAITH IN ACTION

Wisdom is not just knowing what is right, it is choosing to live it out. When we build our lives on God's Word, we are preparing for whatever storms may come. Think of one way you can put God's Word into action this week.

- "I can forgive someone who has hurt me."
- "I can choose to be kind to someone who isn't kind to me."
- "I continually read the word of God to refresh my mind on the wise way to live"
- "I can pray and trust God in difficult moments, knowing that He will take care of me."

Pray

Go around the class asking your kids if there is anything they would like prayer for. Ask if anyone would like to pray for each other, and give them the opportunity to. If not, then pray for the needs as the teacher / facilitator. Remember to pray for the children to read God's word daily and put it into action as this is what a wise person does.

Take note of any prayer requests to be passed onto your child's support network.

Lesson Wrap-up

Jesus teaches us that wisdom is shown by what we do, not just what we know. Storms will come, but when we build our lives on God's Word and put it into action, we can be wise and stand strong through anything.

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ACTIVITIES PAGE

THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDER

ACTIVITY - BUILD ON GOD'S WORD

Supplies Needed: Lego/Magnetic shapes/jenga blocks, Timer, Bibles, Blu tack

Have the children build the best house they can out of the building block materials that you have in your class or ministry. After the timer runs out give it a test that resembles a storm. Ideally this will blow it over or off the table. Repeat the building process again however this time ask the children to build it on a bible and have them stick blu tack from the bible to the house. Explain this is like building their life on the principles that Jesus taught us. Explain they are not meant to just be heard but lived out. Then do the "storm test" and ideally the weight of the bible will stop the building from falling over or off the table.

GAME - SPAGHETTI MARSHMALLOW TOWERS

Supplies Needed: Marshmallows, Dry Spaghetti

In 5 minutes have the children in groups of 2-4 build the highest tower they can out of marshmallows and dry spaghetti. Once they are complete, the one that wins should be the one that has the strongest base. Take this opportunity to highlight the importance of the foundation of the tower and how they should live out what Jesus teaches them in the bible to allow him to be the foundation of their life.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. True or False: In this story, both builders heard Jesus' teaching. (True)

2. Short Answer: What did the wise builder build his house on? (Rock, God's word in action)

3. Short Answer: What happened when the storm came? (The house on the rock stood firm and the house on sand fell)

4. Multiple Choice: What caused the foolish builder's house to fall? (c)
   a) The storm's of life
   b) Not listening to Jesus at all
   c) Listening to Jesus' words but not living it out

5. Multiple Choice: What is the main lesson of this story? (c)
   a) Building houses is hard
   b) Wisdom is listening only
   c) Wisdom is hearing and doing what God says

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: DIFFERENT LANGUAGE VERSE

Memory Verse: Proverbs 2:6 (NIV) "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Supplies Needed: A phone or laptop that can translate words.

Project onto the TV or projector, if available, using Google Translate or a Bible app. Type in the verse or find it in the app, then change the language and have some children volunteer to read the verse in that language. After each different language, return to English and read the verse again in English.

GAME

You can find a list of small group games at https://lmnetwork.com.au/small-group-games/

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