

Good morning!! Here is a collection of activities for all ages that you can do as a family this week. My hope is that this lesson can help you connect together as a family and with God and will open up some authentic discussion as a family.

The King Who Teaches- Parables

What He has done: Jesus taught that the wise man builds his house on a rock.

Lesson Aim: To make wise choices based on God's Word.

1. Setting the story:

We are switching gears for summer and learning about the parables. These summer lessons will line up with James' teachings both at the Roxy and on the podcast.

2. Telling the story

Here is a link to a video of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6S3cRVLMFQ>

Preschool version of the story: (there are instructions to act out the story under the games section)

Jesus is the King who teaches us. King Jesus tells us special stories to help us understand the kingdom of God. Today, we will hear the story Jesus told about the wise builder and the foolish builder. Jesus wants us to be wise. When we choose to be wise, Jesus is pleased.

We make wise choices when we listen to what God says to us. Jesus wants us to listen to His words and do what He says to do. Jesus' words are like the strong rock in His story.

Today, we will hear how Jesus told the story of the wise builder and the foolish builder.

Jesus said, "All who hear what I say,
And try to do everything God's way,
Are like the wise builder who built his house,
On top of a rock—on solid ground.

"The wind blows hard; the rain comes down.
But the house on the rock does not fall down!
There are some who will choose to disobey,
And only do things their own way.

"They are just like the foolish man;
He built his house upon the sand.
The wind blows hard; the rain comes down.
That house falls down with a crashing sound!"

Preschool discussion:

- Who wants you to make wise choices? (God, parent, teacher, etc.)
- One builder made a wise choice. What did he build his house on? Read Matthew 7:25 (A rock. He made a wise choice to build his house on a rock!)

- What kind of choices does God want you to make? (Wise choices.)
- What happened when the wind blew and the rain poured on the wise man's house? (It stayed strong. He was a wise builder.)
- One man made a foolish choice. Where did he build his house? (On the sand.)
- What happened when the wind blew and the rain poured on his house? (It fell.)
- Does God want you to make wise choices like the wise builder or foolish choices like the foolish builder? (Wise choices.)
- Who knows the most important things Jesus tells us to do? (Jesus says to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself.)

Elementary age version of the story:

Read Matthew 7:24-29.

Elementary age discussion:

- What does it mean to be wise? (Yep, smart!)
- What does it mean to be foolish? (That's right...not so smart)
- So which guy was smart? (the one who built his house on the rock.)
- And which one was not so smart or foolish? (the one who built his house down in the sand.) When a big storm came, the rock stood firm but the sand just soaked up the water!
- Jesus had a special reason for telling us this story. It's actually a type of story called a parable.
- What is a parable? (it's a story that teaches a lesson.)
- What lesson Jesus was teaching us? (Jesus was actually not teaching us about houses. He was teaching us one of the differences between being wise and being foolish.)
- What does it mean to put Jesus' words into practice? (it means that when we hear what Jesus wants us to do, we do it. When we obey, we're being wise!)
- What way does this parable tell us that we can be foolish? (Hearing Jesus words, knowing what he wants us to do, but ignoring it or not putting it into practice)
- We know that Jesus wants what's best for us because of how much he loves us. What is something that you know that God wants us to do?
- Who knows the most important things Jesus tells us to do? (Jesus says to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself.)

3. Prayer

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us, loving us and taking care of us. We lift up to You a special prayer for _____. We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.

4. Games (from the curriculum- you may need to play with your kids to fill out the teams):

ACT IT OUT

Purpose: Children will review the story by acting it out.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Have the children stand in a circle. Stand in the middle of the circle.
2. Choose one child to be the "house on the rock" and one child to be the "house on the sand."
3. Divide the remaining children into three groups: wind, rain, and waves.
4. Teach and practice the following motions:
 - Wind: Blow air or whistle and make swirling motions with arms
 - Rain: Flutter fingers as hands move up and down
 - Waves: Move both arms in wave motion
 - "House on the rock": Stand stiff and tall.
 - "House on the sand": Tumble down to the floor
5. Have the children act out their motions as you read the preschool story from this lesson.
6. Assign new roles to the children and play again.

LET'S BUILD A HOUSE!

Supplies: bag of marshmallows and toothpicks.

Directions:

1. Work together to build a house using the marshmallows and toothpicks.
2. Allow a few minutes to build, then debrief:
 - How strong is this house? Is there a chance it could fall over? Why?
 - What would happen if YOUR house was made of marshmallows and toothpicks? Why?
 - What were the best and worst parts of your week?

5. Craft:

Supplies: popsicle sticks, construction paper, glue, markers

Directions:

- Give each kid 10 popsicle sticks and a piece of construction paper
- Have them glue the popsicle sticks to the construction paper in the shape of a house. Then decorate it with markers.
- Encourage kids to draw rocks underneath.
- As kids create, ask: What are some ways we can follow what Jesus says?
 - Brainstorm together.
 - Then have kids write/draw one way they want to follow Jesus this week somewhere on their paper