

Bible background

Matthew 7:24-27

Aim of lesson

To teach the children to do what Jesus teaches.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Introduce the story that Jesus told of the two men who each decided to build a house. One found a nice sandy beach, and the other found a place with a large, hard, solid rock. Tell how the house on the sand would be easier to build because it would be easier to dig a hole for the foundation.
2. Tell how when they were finished, the rain and wind came. Ask what happens to sand in the wind and in the rain etc. Give out the activity sheets and get the children to draw the houses, sand and rock. Let the children draw the rain coming down and perhaps their impression of what happens to the house on the sand!
3. Tell them that Jesus said we can be like the wise man or the foolish man. If we do what he tells us to do, then we are wise. If we do not, then we are foolish and our life will fall to pieces, just like the house built on the sand.
4. Teach the song 'The Wise Man Built'.

Alternative activities

1. Mime/role play building activities e.g. digging, sawing, hammering etc. Remind the children to do the activities quickly and easily on the sand and to make it look like hard work on the rock.
2. If it won't disturb anyone else have a go at making storm sound effects. Make some shakers by putting dried peas or rice in a tub or plastic bottle and securing the lid firmly. Crash some pan lids together and have a large sheet of thick card to wobble. Alternatively, just use voices. Establish a start/stop signal beforehand to keep the noise under control!
3. Build some houses out of large boxes or drape blankets over tables. If you have less space, build houses out of blocks, Lego, small boxes.
4. Have a tray of sand and a tray of large flat stones. Discuss/compare the properties of each. If you're feeling brave try building a play dough house on each tray. Make a flood with a jug of water and see what happens!
5. Make collage pictures of two houses, one standing, one fallen down, using pre-cut brick, roof and door shapes.
6. Alternatively, try printing with brick shaped pieces of sponge or small cubes.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children what they could do this week to show they want to do what Jesus teaches (e.g. help mother at home, share sweets etc.).

Prayer

Ask God to help us to do what Jesus wants of us.

Verse

'Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man.' Matthew 7:24.

Song

The Wise Man Built

Musical notation for the song 'The Wise Man Built'. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a G chord, followed by a D7 chord. The second staff includes G, G7, and C chords. The third staff includes D7, G, G, and D7 chords. The fourth staff includes G, G7, and C chords. The fifth staff begins with a D7 chord and ends with a G chord. The melody is simple and repetitive, suitable for a children's song.

v.1 The wise man built his house upon the rock,
The wise man built his house upon the rock,
The wise man built his house upon the rock,
And the rain came tumbling down

Chorus: And the rain came down and the floods came up,
The rain came down and floods came up,
The rain came down and floods came up,
And the house on the rock stood firm.

v.2 The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
And the rain came tumbling down.

Chorus: And the rain came down and the floods came up,
The rain came down and the floods came up,
The rain came down and the floods came up,
And the house on the sand fell flat.

v.3 If you don't do just what Jesus tells you to
If you don't do just what Jesus tells you to
If you don't do just what Jesus tells you to
Then you are the foolish man.

v.4 But if you do just what Jesus tells you to,
But if you do just what Jesus tells you to,
But if you do just what Jesus tells you to,
Then you are the very wise man.

Add your own actions to emphasise the story.

Music and words: Traditional.