

WE NEED JESUS

**We need a
rock to build
our lives on**

MATTHEW 7:24-29

faith **kids**

We need Jesus – We need a rock to build our lives on

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Big Idea:

We need Jesus! His teaching is the only safe foundation for our lives.



Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who totally depend on Jesus. They put his words into practice and are eternally safe.



Where are we going?


This short parable is the conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus has spoken beautifully and powerfully about how those who belong to his kingdom live; they are pure in heart, salt and light, forgiving and generous. We are left gulping, realizing how far we fall short. But we also see Jesus standing before us, the one we need. He says, “blessed are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven”.

Jesus tells us that we need to realise our total spiritual bankruptcy, so that we will come to him as our only hope, our saviour. We need to hear his words and obey them. This is like building on a rock. Jesus is the foundation we need. If we build our lives on any other foundation, our efforts and achievements are like sand – washed away in an instant.



Build it!

Grab some building materials from around your house (e.g. Lego, cereal boxes and sellotape, play dough, wooden blocks) and build a house (for a teddy, your tortoise, your Dad...). The only rule is that it has to stay up on its own when a grown-up blows it with a hairdryer!

 **Link:** Today, Jesus tells a story about a house that stood solid in a storm (and one that didn't).



Click here to watch

or scan the code





Teaching Time

Younger children

Have ready some sand or soil, a large stone or rock with a flat surface, one Lego brick as the house and a cup of water.

Read the Bible passage together. Jesus told a story about 2 different foundations:

Rock. Place the Lego brick securely on the flat part of the stone. Pour the cup of water onto the stone and explain that the stone is not affected by the water. It stays strong.

Sand. Make a small sandcastle out of the sand or soil and balance the same Lego brick on top. Pour the cup of water onto *the sandcastle* and watch the house fall.

Have some fun playing with sand, rocks and water.

You could draw a house with your finger in the sand – then wash it away with water. You could draw a house with a permanent marker pen on a rock – the water doesn't wash it away.

Jesus wants us to understand who we need to listen carefully to.

- Listen to v24. What will wise people do with Jesus' words?
- Listening to Jesus and doing what he says is like building on what?
- Listen to v26. What will foolish people do with Jesus' words?
- Hearing Jesus' words and not doing them is like building on what?

Older children

Read the Bible passage together and build a Jenga tower.

If you take the blocks out of the bottom, it wobbles. Its foundation is not safe.

Jesus talks about two different foundations – rock and sand. Jesus talks about two similar people – they both hear his words and they both face a storm. Change the Jenga tower so it has a weak / sand-like foundation – will it stand in a storm? How could you

construct a Jenga tower to have a super strong / rock-like foundation?

- What is the difference between the two groups of people? (Look at v24 & v26)
- What is the difference between what happens to the wise builder and the foolish one? (Look at v25 & v27)
- What does Jesus want us to learn?



Hearts and Hands

Younger children

Craft time

Paint / draw on a rock to make it look like a house (ie draw windows and a door). Write on the house – “I need Jesus”. Alternatively, you could draw a story scene with chalk on your path, or junk model it with boxes.

Did you spot it?

- How were the two houses different?
- Which house was standing at the end?

Work it out

- Who is the wise builder like in real life? [Someone who hears Jesus words and....?]
- Who is the foolish builder like in real life? [Someone who hears Jesus words and....?]
- What happens to the foolish builder?

So what?

- Why is it a great idea to listen to Jesus and do what he says?

Older children

Make time

Sometimes busy hands make chatting through the questions easier – talk as you build with blocks). What is the highest tower you can build on 1 block before it falls? What difference does a wider foundation make? You could try building with stones – can you balance a tower, or an arch?

Did you spot it?

- What was wise about one builder and foolish about the other?
- In real life, what is the difference between the wise and foolish listener?

Work it out

- What could it look like if someone listened to Jesus but did not to do what he said?
- How would it look different if that person did do what Jesus commanded?
- What do you find surprising in this passage?

- What disaster comes to those who live ignoring Jesus?

So what?

- How could you be foolish in hearing his words but not doing them?
- How hard do you find it to keep obeying Jesus? Is it worth it?
- What would you say to someone who says, “I can’t see the benefit of being a Christian”?

Extra Stretch

- This lockdown could be one of the storms Jesus is talking about. How could it help us to see if we are being wise?
- Can we think of a time when we have heard Jesus’ words and made a change in our life because of them?