FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 1-3

Day 2: Jesus Teaches Me

Hear and Do! | The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders

Bible story	The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29)
Memory verse (NKJV)	"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24)
Takeaway	Following Jesus means listening to His words and doing what He says.
Daily call	Leader: "Hear" Kids: "And do!"

Objectives

- Retell the main events of The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29).
- Say Matthew 7:24 from memory.
- Name one way to obey Jesus' words this week.

Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher and for each student
- Prop for the attention getter: a rock and a cup of sand
- Copies of today's student lesson and activity sheets (one per child)
- Crayons, pencils, and name tags
- Craft supplies: Small tray of sand and a flat rock; Small blocks or cups; Spray bottle of water; Cardstock house template, crayons

Teacher preparation

- Read Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29 in your own Bible at least twice this week.
- Read the matching "31 Days with Jesus" devotionals at The Preacher's Pen: Day 14: The Sermon on the Mount (Embracing Jesus' Blueprint for Faith); Day 18: The Parables of Jesus (Lessons for Life); Day 20: Jesus Teaches on Prayer.
- Make copies, prepare craft pieces, and set out the prop before children arrive.

Background for the teacher

- Jesus sat down to teach (Matthew 5:1). In that culture, rabbis normally sat while teaching.
- Many houses in Galilee were built of stone. Dry streambeds could flash flood in a heavy rain, washing away anything built on sand.
- Luke 6:20-49 records a similar sermon, sometimes called the Sermon on the Plain.
- "Authority" (Matthew 7:29): the scribes quoted earlier teachers; Jesus spoke on His own authority ("But I say to you," Matthew 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44).
- Jesus is the greatest Teacher. He taught "as one having authority" (Matthew 7:29).
- Jesus teaches us how to live: be salt and light, love others, pray, and seek God first (Matthew 5-7).
- Hearing is not enough. The wise person hears Jesus and does what He says (Matthew 7:24; James 1:22).
- A life built on Jesus' words stands strong when storms come (Matthew 7:25).

Lesson plan (40 minutes)

Time	Segment	What to do
0:00-0:05	Welcome and review	Take attendance. Review yesterday's verse and call.
0:05-0:08	Attention getter	Show a rock and a cup of sand. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:18	Bible story	Tell the story from your Bible (script below). Show the coloring page as a picture.
0:18-0:23	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions.
0:23-0:28	Memory verse game	Write the verse on the board. Read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.
0:28-0:37	Activity sheets	Word search, maze, fill-in-the-blank, matching, coloring.
0:37-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	Ask, "How will you obey Jesus' words this week?" Close with prayer.

Attention getter

Show a rock and a cup of sand. Ask: What would happen to a sandcastle in a big rainstorm? What about a house built on solid rock?

Bible story

Teach from an open Bible so students see that the story comes from God's word. Use this script as a guide; tell it in your own words.

Crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere. One day Jesus went up on a mountain, sat down, and began to teach them (Matthew 5:1-2). This teaching is called the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus taught that God blesses people who are humble, kind, and pure in heart (Matthew 5:3-9). He said, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). He wants us to shine by doing good things so people will praise God (Matthew 5:16).

Jesus taught us to love even people who are mean to us (Matthew 5:44). He taught us how to pray to our Father in heaven (Matthew 6:9-13). He told us not to worry but to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).

At the end, Jesus told a story. A wise man built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the floods came up, and the wind blew hard. But the house did not fall, because it was built on the rock (Matthew 7:24-25).

A foolish man built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came up, and the wind blew hard. The house fell with a great crash (Matthew 7:26-27)!

Jesus said the wise man is like a person who hears His words and does them. The foolish man is like a person who hears His words but does not do them. The people were amazed, because Jesus taught with authority (Matthew 7:28-29). When we listen to Jesus and obey, we are building on the rock.

Discussion questions

1. Where did Jesus sit to teach the people?
2. What is the difference between the wise man and the foolish man?
3. Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.” How can you shine?
4. What is one thing Jesus taught that you can do this week?

Review

- Jesus went up on a _____ to teach. (Answer: Mountain)
- The wise man built his house on the _____. (Answer: Rock)
- The foolish man built his house on the _____. (Answer: Sand)
- “You are the _____ of the world.” (Answer: Light)
- The wise man hears Jesus’ words and _____ them. (Answer: Does)

Memory verse activity

Erase-a-word: write the verse on the board, read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Rock and Sand Experiment Card

Materials: Small tray of sand and a flat rock; Small blocks or cups; Spray bottle of water; Cardstock house template, crayons

1. As a class, build one block house on sand and one on the rock. Spray “rain” and watch what happens.
2. Children color the cardstock house template.
3. Write the memory verse (Matthew 7:24) inside the house door flap.
4. Talk: “What makes our life strong like the rock?”

Recreation and snack

Game: Rock or Sand Relay: teams carry a beanbag “brick” to a gray mat (rock) and must avoid the tan mat (sand). Or play “Hear and Do” (like Simon Says): kids only move when they clearly hear the instruction.

Snack: “House on the Rock”: a graham cracker square (house) on a cereal-treat square (rock). Offer a nut-free option. Always check allergy information on registration cards before serving food.

Songs (a cappella)

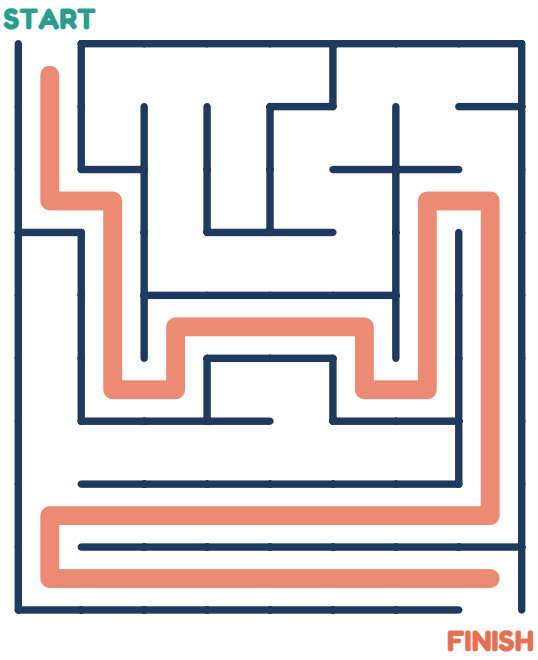
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock; This Little Light of Mine; Wonderful Words of Life; Trust and Obey; Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day.

Answer keys

Word search

K	U	G	E	R	O	C	K	Q	C
M	C	H	E	A	R	T	E	Z	L
G	E	O	I	I	H	W	I	U	S
J	U	U	L	N	N	G	S	R	W
L	R	S	M	F	F	K	I	S	V
W	C	E	J	Y	Z	J	X	D	K
I	N	Z	O	B	E	Y	A	Z	S
N	Y	I	A	W	Q	H	Q	U	R
D	J	M	S	A	N	D	A	O	H
L	Y	C	D	I	W	I	S	E	A

Maze



Fill in the blank

1. Jesus went up on a MOUNTAIN to teach.
2. The wise man built his house on the ROCK.
3. The foolish man built his house on the SAND.
4. “You are the LIGHT of the world.”
5. The wise man hears Jesus’ words and DOES them.

Matching

- Wise man: built on the rock
- Foolish man: built on the sand
- Salt and light: what Jesus calls His followers
- Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated
- Jesus: taught as one having authority

Sources for this lesson

- "31 Days with Jesus" by Christopher Gallagher, The Preacher's Pen: Day 14: The Sermon on the Mount (Embracing Jesus' Blueprint for Faith); Day 18: The Parables of Jesus (Lessons for Life); Day 20: Jesus Teaches on Prayer (preacherspen.org/courses/31-days-with-jesus/)
- Preaching Library lessons and outlines: Why Do You Follow Jesus? (walk-through of Matthew 5-7); Jesus the Teacher (Matthew 7:28-29)
- Scripture: Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29. All quotations from the New King James Version (NKJV).