FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 4-6

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

- Find and read the key passages (Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29).
- Explain the big idea: Following Jesus means listening to His words and doing what He says.
- Say Matthew 7:24 from memory.
- Choose one specific 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: Paper cups (10 per small group); Labels or markers; Bibles

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
0:00-0:04	Welcome and review	Attendance; quick review of earlier days.
0:04-0:08	Opener	Show a rock and a cup of sand. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:20	Bible study	Have students find the passages and read aloud as you teach (script below).
0:20-0:26	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions; let students answer from the text.
0:26-0:30	Memory verse	Verse card race: put word cards in order, then say it from memory.
0:30-0:38	Activity sheets	Bible lookups first, then crossword, word search, scramble, and code.
0:38-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	One-sentence takeaway from each student. 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.

Jesus was the greatest teacher who ever lived. When the crowds gathered, He went up on a mountain, sat down the way teachers did in that day, and taught His disciples (Matthew 5:1-2). Matthew 5, 6, and 7 record this lesson, the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus began with the Beatitudes, blessings for the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers (Matthew 5:3-12). God's blessing looks different from what the world expects. Jesus called His followers salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt makes a difference and light shows the way.

Jesus went deeper than outward rules. He taught about anger, purity, honesty, and loving enemies (Matthew 5:21-48). He taught His followers to give and pray humbly, not to be seen by others, and gave a model prayer (Matthew 6:1-13). He said to store up treasures in heaven and "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:19-33). He gave the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) and warned about the wide road and false teachers (Matthew 7:13-23).

Jesus ended with a story about two builders. Both heard. Both built. Both faced the same storm. The difference was the foundation. The wise man built on the rock and his house stood. The foolish man built on the sand and his house fell, “and great was its fall” (Matthew 7:24-27).

Jesus explained the point: the wise man is the one who “hears these sayings of Mine, and does them” (Matthew 7:24). The crowds were astonished, because He taught “as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matthew 7:28-29). Following Jesus means more than knowing what He said. It means doing it.

Discussion questions

1. Why were the people astonished at Jesus’ teaching?
2. Both builders heard and both faced the storm. What was the only difference?
3. What are some “storms” kids your age face?
4. Which teaching from Matthew 5-7 is hardest for you to do? Why?

Review

- Where did Jesus go to teach? (Matthew 5:1) Answer: up on a mountain
- What did Jesus call His followers? (Matthew 5:14) Answer: the light of the world
- Whom did Jesus say to love? (Matthew 5:44) Answer: your enemies
- What should we seek first? (Matthew 6:33) Answer: the kingdom of God and His righteousness
- Where did the wise man build? (Matthew 7:24) Answer: on the rock
- How did the people react? (Matthew 7:28) Answer: they were astonished

Memory verse activity

Verse card race: write each phrase on a card, mix them up, and let teams race to put the verse in order. Then say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Building Blocks of the Sermon on the Mount

Materials: Paper cups (10 per small group); Labels or markers; Bibles

1. Groups label each cup with a teaching from Matthew 5-7 (salt, light, love enemies, pray, seek first, Golden Rule, narrow gate, hear and do, and so on) with its reference.
2. Build a tower on a solid book (the rock), naming each teaching as it is placed.
3. Try to build on a pillow (sand). Discuss the difference.
4. Write the memory verse on the top cup.

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

Bible lookups

Reference	Answer
Matthew 5:1	up on a mountain
Matthew 5:14	the light of the world
Matthew 5:44	your enemies
Matthew 6:33	the kingdom of God and His righteousness
Matthew 7:24	on the rock
Matthew 7:28	they were astonished

Crossword



Across: 1 BLESSED; 4 KINGDOM; 7 SAND; 10 AUTHORITY

Down: 2 LIGHT; 3 WISE; 5 MOUNTAIN; 6 SALT; 8 RAIN; 9 ROCK

Word search



Word scramble

1. MOUNTAIN, 2. ROCK, 3. SAND, 4. WISE, 5. LIGHT, 6. SALT, 7. TEACHER, 8. OBEY

Secret code

Answer: HEAR AND DO

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).