FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · NURSERY (AGES 0-2)

# Day 2: Jesus Teaches Me

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

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| 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) | “Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them” (Matthew 7:24) (full verse for helpers: “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.”) |
| Takeaway | I listen to Jesus and obey! |
| Daily call | Leader: “Hear” Kids: “And do!” |

## Objectives

- Hear the story of the sermon on the mount and the wise and foolish builders in simple words.
- Say the memory phrase: “I listen to Jesus and obey!”
- Experience God’s love through a caring teacher, songs, and play.

## Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher
- An enlarged copy of today’s coloring page to use as the story picture
- 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: Gray paper rock shapes (prepare ahead); Simple paper house shapes; Glue stick (teacher use); Blue paper strips (rain)

## 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 |
|---|---|---|
| 0:00-0:08 | Welcome and free play | Greet each child by name. Offer soft toys that match today's story (a rock and a cup of sand). |
| 0:08-0:15 | Bible time | Sit in a circle. Hold up the picture and the Bible. Tell the short story with props. |
| 0:15-0:20 | Songs and finger play | Sing softly (a cappella) and do today's finger play together. |
| 0:20-0:32 | Activity time | Coloring page and the "Find the Picture" sheet with a helper beside each child. |
| 0:32-0:37 | Craft | Simple craft (see Craft section). Teachers do any gluing or cutting. |
| 0:37-0:40 | Prayer and goodbye | Say the memory phrase, pray a short prayer, and send the take-home story card. |

### Attention getter

Show a rock and a cup of sand. Let children touch and explore it while you say a simple sentence about today's story.

## 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 went up on a mountain. Many people came to hear Him.
- Jesus taught the people about God. Jesus is the best Teacher!
- Jesus told a story about two men who built houses.
- The wise man built his house on the rock.
- The foolish man built his house on the sand.
- The rain came down. The wind blew. Whoosh!
- The house on the sand fell down. Crash! The house on the rock stood strong!
- When I listen to Jesus and obey, I am wise like the man who built on the rock.

## Discussion questions

1. Where did the wise man build his house?
2. What happened to the house on the sand?
3. How can you listen to Jesus?

## Review

- Who was in our story today? (Jesus, the wise man, and the foolish man)
- Say our phrase: “I listen to Jesus and obey!”

## Memory verse activity

Say the short verse slowly and have children echo it. Add a motion for each phrase. Repeat it at the start and end of class.

### Finger play: The Wise Man’s House

- Build my house upon the rock, (stack fists one on the other)
- Strong and firm, it will not knock! (shake head “no”)
- Rain comes down, drip, drip, drop, (wiggle fingers down)
- Wind blows hard, but it won’t stop! (blow and sway)
- I will listen, I will do, (hand to ear, then point to self)
- What Jesus says, my whole life through! (arms open wide)

## Craft (Craft Time): House on the Rock

Materials: Gray paper rock shapes (prepare ahead); Simple paper house shapes; Glue stick (teacher use); Blue paper strips (rain)

1. Help each child glue the house onto the rock.
2. Add blue strips for rain coming down.
3. Say together, “The house on the rock stood strong!”
4. Write the child’s name on the back.

## 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

Find the Picture: the house.

## 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).