FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · PRE-K (AGES 3-5)

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)	"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.
- Say the short verse: "Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them" (Matthew 7:24)

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: Construction paper; Pre-cut house, roof, and gray rock shapes; Cotton balls (clouds); Blue crayons, glue sticks

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	Greet children, take attendance, put on name tags.
0:04-0:08	Attention getter	Show a rock and a cup of sand. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:16	Bible story	Tell the story with the picture and props. Let children do the actions.
0:16-0:22	Memory verse	Teach the short verse with motions. Pass a beanbag; whoever holds it says the verse with you.
0:22-0:27	Action rhyme and song	Do today's action rhyme. Sing one of today's songs a cappella.
0:27-0:37	Activity sheets	Coloring, tracing, and matching. Walk around and talk about the story.
0:37-0:40	Review and prayer	Ask the review questions. Pray together.

Attention getter

Show a rock and a cup of sand. 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 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): Wise Man’s House

Materials: Construction paper; Pre-cut house, roof, and gray rock shapes; Cotton balls (clouds); Blue crayons, glue sticks

1. Glue the gray rock at the bottom of the page.
2. Build the house on top: square, then roof.
3. Glue cotton-ball clouds at the top and draw blue raindrops.
4. Teacher writes, “I listen to Jesus and obey!”

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

Matching: each picture matches the same picture on the right.

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).