

Lesson 3

-House Upon The Rock- Good Choices

House Upon The Rock - Good Choices

2-5 Years

Opening Prayer: To welcome the start of the class. For example:

"Dear God. As we once again come together, help us to learn more about your work and how we can be better Christians. Amen"

Bible Story:

Tell the story of the wise man who built his house upon the rock (Matthew 7:24-27) in basic language that this age group can understand. If you can't find an illustrated copy of this in the library for use in your class, use the bible but translate the bible story into a simple language that the little ones can understand.

Matthew
7:24-27

Discussion:

Talk about whether or not the homes where the children live are built on sand. Discuss sandcastles and what happens to them when the tide comes in.

Activity: This activity will need you to have the following items, and it might be an idea to do a trial run of this to make sure you get the right result before showing your class:

- Dry sand
- 2 flat containers a few inches high that can hold water
- Small cardboard box/empty margarine tub that will easily fall when water is added to the sand but stand fast if it's standing on top of the rock/stone.
- Flat rock or stone larger than your box or empty margarine tub
- Water in two bottles (around the size of a family size soda bottle)

First of all place the sand in the container and make a small mound that you can place the house on top of. Pour the contents of one water bottle onto the sand close to the house so that the sand starts to crumble and the house fall.

Next place the flat rock or stone into the other container and put the box/margarine tub on top of it. Gently pour the water onto the rock/stone. The box/tub should stand firm.

Art:



Do a simple outline drawing of a house that's sitting on a rock - around A5 size is big enough for this age group. At the top of it put a heading "The Wise Man Builds His House upon a Rock". Copy this so that each child can have a copy to color.

Song: To the tune of "Row, row, row your boat". The last word should be shouted and accompanied by a single handclap:

Let me build my house
Safely on the rock,
Then the storms won't come and
Make my house go PLOP!



Closing Prayer: Thanking God for his story and asking for help in making wise choices. For example,

Dear God, thank you for the story of the wise man. Please help me to make the right choices so that like the wise man in the story, my house will stand firm. Amen

6-8 Years:

Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. For example:

"Dear God, We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

Tell the story of the wise man building his house upon the rock to the children in the class.

Discussion 1:

Talk about the story. Do any of the children have homes built on sand? Would they choose to build their own home there? Ask them what choices they make and whether they make good ones - for example, wearing a sweater in cold weather, not eating candy before supper, making sure their homework is done the night before it's due. Talk about the consequences of these choices if the wrong choice is made. Get the children to lead the discussion once you prompt the question, but be prepared to get the ball rolling with a few examples.

Activity:

Make enough copies of the following page so that each child has a copy (page 20). Ask them to choose what they think the right answer should be. Give the children a little time to make their choices:

Discussion 2:

Go through each question and talk about which would be the right choice - and what the consequences of the wrong answer could be.

Closing Prayer: To thank God for the wisdom to make good choices. For example:

Dear God, thank you for the story of the wise man who built his house upon the rock. When I need to make a choice, give me the wisdom to make the right choice. Amen.

Make the Right Choices

1. **You should have your breakfast**
 - a) before you go to bed
 - b) when you are in the shower
 - c) before you go to school

2. **You should brush your teeth**
 - a) on the bus
 - b) after every meal
 - c) when riding your bike

3. **You should pray and thank God**
 - a) every day
 - b) when you want a new toy
 - c) if you haven't done your homework and the teacher is sick

4. **You should do what your parents tell you**
 - a) when you feel like it
 - b) when they tell you, without question
 - c) if you've nothing better to do

5. **You should confess to doing something wrong**
 - a) anytime you do something wrong
 - b) if you know you won't get into trouble
 - c) if you know you'll be found out

6. **You should tell the truth about where you are going**
 - a) all the time
 - b) if you remember
 - c) never

9-11 Years:

Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. Keep the prayer simple and easy for the children to learn so that it can be said as a group prayer rather than one that the leader says. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

From your class bible have one of the students read the story of the wise man who built his house upon the rock. (Matthew 7:24-27)



Discussion 1:

What's this story really about? Is it really about where to build houses? Or it is more about something else (making the right choices).

Discussion 2:

Give the group choices between a number of pairs of situations - for example, would they rather be rich or poor, live in a house or apartment, go to school or not, have a job or be unemployed - discuss each of your situations in turn, who chooses which option - why? What are the possible consequences of choosing the wrong option?

Activity:

Take a couple of situations, for example smoking and rollerblading instead of doing homework. Assign 1 student to make the choice, and divide the rest of the class so that you have one group per situation. In turn, have the group try to get the choosing student to make the wrong decision"Come rollerblading, home isn't important. Just tell them you left it at home. You're such a goody two-shoes. And so on." The person having to make the choice has to stand firm - as long as they can!

Afterwards have the students who made choices talk about how difficult it was to make the right choice when they were being encouraged into making the wrong one.

Closing Prayer: Asking God for help to make the right decisions. For example:

Dear God, thank you for your wisdom and guidance. Help us to make the right decisions, especially when faced with temptation to do something that is more fun but we know is wrong. Amen"

12-14 Years:

Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. Keep the prayer simple and easy for the students to learn so that it can be said as a group prayer rather than one that the leader says. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Reading:

From your class bible have one of the students read the story of the wise man who built his house upon the rock. (Matthew 7:24-27)



Matthew
7:24-27

Discussion:

Does anyone know what this story is really about? Can they see how it can be about making the wrong choices can lead to disaster? What kind of wrong choices can they think of that would lead them to make a mistake they would regret.

Activity:

Have each student write a situation that could have a difficult choice on a piece of paper and fold it up. Place all the folded pieces of paper in a container and then have each student choose a piece of paper.

Go around the class and individually have the students read out what the situation is, and tell the rest of the class what they think the right choice is. The class should then vote as to whether they think that's the right choice or not.

If they vote in favor of a wrong choice, ask why they think that this is a right choice, talk about the consequences of the choice made, and steer them back to finding the right choice.

Discussion:

On a larger scale, what kind of choices are made that affect their lives? Government issues are what you are looking for here. How can they influence the decision makers - taking an active role in the community, voting in all elections, etc.

Closing Prayer: Asking God to guide them when they are faced with difficult decisions. For example:

Dear God, thank you for your wisdom and for giving us the freedom to make choices in our lives. Guide us when we are faced with tough decisions so that we may reflect your wisdom and make the right choice. Amen."