

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 5 • Week 1

JESUS AS A TEACHER

OBJECTIVE:

To teach Jesus' parable of Matthew 7:24-27 about the house built on a rock and the house built on sand and to show that we should base our lives on "the rock" of Christ and God's Word.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: If possible bring a brick to class and pass it around so the children can feel the weight of it.

Say: Feel how heavy one brick is. As heavy as one brick is by itself, imagine how heavy a whole building is, a building made of thousands of bricks. Some buildings are made of other materials, like wood and steel. These materials are heavy too. Look around at this structure we are in now.

Ask: What is this building made of? Think of the many heavy pieces of wood, stone and/or cement block that are in it. What is holding all this up?

Say: The "foundation" is the part at the bottom that the rest of the building sits on. The foundation must be very strong and attached to a solid base so that the building won't collapse.

BIBLE LESSON

Say: Today I'm going to tell you a story that Jesus told his followers many years ago:

Once there was a new house that was built on a rock. The builder proudly hammered the last few nails into place. Suddenly storm clouds arose from the east and the workman took cover under the front porch. He heard the rain hit hard against the shingles. The powerful winds blew all the trees and things outside, but the house held tight to its large rock base.

Then the river rose and sent huge floods swirling outside the house. The building would not

give in to the wind and the water because it was built on a firm foundation. It was built to last!

Once there was another new house. It was built on a sandy outcrop overlooking a river. The builder admired the house as he put on the finishing touches.

“What a pretty house!” he said, standing on the balcony. “But I’d better get inside. Those look like thunder clouds.” He watched the black clouds release large raindrops. It rained and rained until the river overflowed and sent water rushing at the house. The sandy earth beneath the foundation seemed to melt into the flooding waters, causing the lower floor to break.

Tiny cracks started running up the walls inside the house. The cracks got bigger and the floor moved beneath the workman’s feet. The walls started swaying as the powerful winds blew. The balcony split off from the outer wall and tumbled down into the water below, leaving a gaping hole in the side of the building.

The builder ran through sandy mud to leave the house that had become a death trap. The walls collapsed with a boom as he escaped to a nearby house standing firm on a rock against the storm.

Ask: What did you think of the story that I just read to you? Why did one house stand firm while the other did not?

Ask: What are some things you have seen on the news that have helped make buildings fall down? [Possible answers: tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and floods.]

Say: That’s right. All those things can be hard on any building. But they are even more destructive to a house built on sand or ground that isn’t solid.

Ask: Did you know that a person’s life could be compared to a building?

Say: Yes, the things you are learning and doing today are setting the foundation for the rest of your life. If you as children make wise choices and do the things that God says are good, you are making a strong foundation for a good future.

Ask: Like bad weather that causes trouble for a building, are there things that can make trouble for a person’s life and make him unhappy?

Say: Yes, life on this earth holds tough times for everyone. Death of a loved one, sickness, loss of friends and other sad things can wear away at people.

Ask: Who can stand up to the hard times best? Are they people who obey God or those who don’t think the Bible is anything special?

Say: The Bible helps us to avoid many problems in the first place; but it also prepares us to face hard times. When bad times come, the Bible tells us not to be too sad, because trials can make us even stronger.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Do: Pass out pencils, crayons and a sheet of paper for each child.

Say: Fold your piece of paper in half. At the top of one half, write the words "House on rock." At the top of the other half, write the words "House on sand." Now draw two houses that look alike except for the foundation and illustrate what happened to each of them.

Do: Consider displaying the drawings for the church congregation to view.

Ask: What are some things that you can do to build a strong foundation on which to build the rest of your life?

Do: Have children do the "Build on a Strong Foundation" puzzle.

Say: Here is a puzzle that may give you a few ideas.

Say: Like the worker in Jesus' story, who built a sturdy house on a good, stable piece of land, we can build strong lives on the things the Bible teaches. Then when trouble comes, we will be strong enough to stand up to it.

MUSIC:

Sing the following words to the tune of "This Old Man."

A foolish man built a house,
Built a house on sand and mud.
With the wind and rain and lightning all around,
The house on sand came tumbling down.

A wiser man built a house.
Built a house upon a rock.
With the wind and rain and lightning all around,
The house on rock was safe and sound.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 7:24 "Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."

BUILD ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

What are some things that you can do to build a strong foundation on which to build the rest of your life? Fill in each blank with a word that fits best in each sentence below. Choose words from the list just below the sentences.

Make ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ with others who try to do what's right.

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ God's Word helps you build a strong foundation for life.

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ daily that God will lead you to make right choices.

Try to be ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ now. It's hard to change sloppy habits later.

SET GOALS! ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ about what you need and then GO FOR IT!!

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ hard at school—you never know when you'll need this knowledge later

Read the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ for clues on how to be happy and how to stand up to hard times.

WORK
FRIENDS
PRAY
OBEYING

THINK
BIBLE
NEAT

family activity

THE POINT:

Jesus taught that we should base our lives on “the rock” of God’s Word, as the parable about the house on the rock and the house on the sand shows.

ASK ME...

Who told the story about the house built on rock and the house built on sand?

What happened to each of these houses?

What does this story teach us to do?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss the importance of planning and doing a job right. Emphasize such principles as using the right materials, choosing a good location for building, counting the cost before you start and anticipating the unexpected such as bad weather, etc.

Talk about how you as a family can build a foundation for a better life. Example: Doing things together can strengthen the family unit—the basic building block of society.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 7:24 “Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”