

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 18

R is for Rock

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The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To teach the students that our foundation in life must be Christ.

Key Verses

Matthew 7:24-28—Main Teaching Passage

Psalms 61:2

Psalms 62:2

James 1:22

Memory Verse Psalm 33:4 (May Memory Verse)

"For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth."

Hook

Using the blocks provided, asks the students to build two towers. Have them build the first tower on a flat, stable surface and the second hanging over the edge of a table or on a pile of crumpled up papers (something suitably unstable).

When they are done, ask them which one of the towers is the strongest and which one will fall over the easiest?

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Matthew 7:24-28 presents us with an important parable. A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. Jesus would use stories about everyday events or common objects to highlight or explain the deeper spiritual point that He was trying to make.

In this instance, Jesus tells us about 2 different men who were both building houses. The first man built his house on a solid foundation that would not be moved. When storms came and blew against the house, it stood strong against the wind and the rain because it was built on a strong base. The second man built his house on sand, which shifts and moves. When the storm came against his house, the sands beneath the structure were blown away by the wind and washed away by the water. Because his house was built on a weak foundation, it collapsed.

The meaning of this parable is very direct: if you trust in Christ and His Word, you are building your life on a solid foundation of truth. But if you reject Christ and His Word, you are building your life on shaky ground.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

One of the most interesting names for God in all of Scripture is “the Rock.” I love this name because it shows us the incredible strength that God has, and the strength that He can provide for us. Psalm 61:2 talks about God being a Rock that we can stand on when floods come. In that sense, He is our safe place, our refuge, our high ground. In Psalm 62:2, it says that God is our Rock, we shall not be moved.

Because God is like a Rock, it also means that He is dependable, firm, solid and trustworthy. In the same way that we can stand on a big rock and know that it isn’t going to crumble underneath us, we can stand on God and know that He will always support us and hold us up.

The passage of Scripture that we read sounds a lot like a story that you might have heard before, a story about three little pigs. The first pig built his house out of straw, which is light and breaks easily. The second pig built his house out of twigs, which again are light and easily broken. But the third pig built his house of bricks, which are strong and solid. When the wolf came to the first house, all he had to blow and the straw walls collapsed. The twig house was no better, and it too was blown down. But the brick house, no matter how hard the wolf tried to get in, stayed strong and protected the little pig.

LOOK (Continued)

Just like the third little pig or the wise man from our story, we need to build our lives on a firm foundation. Matthew 7 tells us that we do this by obeying God's Word. Did you notice what Jesus said, that the man who "*hears* these sayings of mine, *and does* them," is the person who builds his house on the rock? Jesus doesn't just want to teach us fun stories. He wants us to learn how He wants us to live. James 1:22 (NIRV) says, "Don't just listen to the word... You must do what it says." God wants us to put our faith into practice. That is how we show God that we trust Him and love Him, by doing what asks us to do. We can call God our Rock all we want, but we show that to be true when we believe what He tells us and actually do it. If we hear God's Word and disobey Him, then we show God that we are really trusting in something else, something that isn't strong, reliable and dependable. Matthew 7 uses only one word for someone who does that: "Foolish."

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Ask the class to make a list of things that they think God wants them to do this week. Brainstorm some ways that they might accomplish the things that they list.

Pray: Thank the Lord that He is a refuge and a fortress for us, that He is there to hold us up in any and every circumstance. Ask Him for the strength that He offers to obey His Word and live for Him.

Parent Question: What are some things that God wants me to do this week?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Matthew 7:24-29 by David Guzik

5. (24-27) The decision between two builders and their destiny.

"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: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

a. **I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:** In Jesus' illustration of the two builders, each house looked the same from the outside. The real foundation of our life is usually hidden and is only proven in the storm, and we could say that the storms come from both heaven (**rain**) and earth (**floods**).

i. "The article used to denote not an individual rock, but a category - a rocky foundation." (Bruce)

ii. "The wise and the foolish man were both engaged in precisely the same avocations, and to a considerable extent achieved the same design; both of them undertook to build houses, both of them persevered in building, both of them finished their houses. The likeness between them is very considerable." (Spurgeon)

b. **And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the house:** A storm (**rain, floods, wind**) was the ultimate in power to generations that didn't have nuclear weapons. Jesus warns us that the foundations of our lives will be shaken at some time or another, both now (in trials) and in the ultimate judgment before God.

i. Time and the storms of life will prove the strength of one's foundation, even when it is hidden. We may be surprised when we see who has truly built upon the good foundation. "At last, when Judas betrayed Christ in the night, Nicodemus faithfully professed him in the day." (Trapp)

ii. It is better that we test the foundation of our life *now* rather than later, at our judgment before God when it is too late to change our destiny.

iii. Jesus may have had in mind an Old Testament passage: *When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation.* (Proverbs 10:25)

c. **Everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them:** Merely *hearing* God's Word isn't enough to provide a secure foundation. It is necessary that we are also *doers* of His Word. If we are not, we commit the sin that will surely find us out, the sin of doing nothing (Numbers 32:23) - and **great** will be *our fall*.

i. "Wherein lay the second builder's folly? Not in deliberately seeking a bad foundation, but in taking no thought of foundation...His fault was not an error in judgment, but inconsiderateness. It is not, as is commonly supposed, a question of two foundations, but of looking to, and neglecting to look to, the foundation." (Bruce)

ii. "Their misery and calamity shall be the greater, by how much their hopes have been the stronger, the dis-

appointment of their expectations adding to their misery." (Poole)

iii. Yet no one can read this without seeing that they have not, do not, and will not ever completely **do them**. Even if we **do them** in a general sense (in which we should), the revelation of the Kingdom of God in the Sermon on the Mount drives us back again and again as needy sinners upon our Savior. "The Mount of ethical enunciation reveals the need for the Mount of the Cross." (Morgan)

6. (28-29) The effect of Jesus' sermon on those who heard Him.

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

a. **For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes:** His audience could not but notice that Jesus taught with an authority lacking in the other teachers in His day, who often only quoted other rabbis. Jesus spoke with inherent authority, and the authority of God's revealed Word.

i. "The scribes spoke *by* authority, resting all they said on traditions of what had been said before. Jesus spoke *with* authority, out of His own soul." (Bruce)

ii. "Two things surprised them: the substance of his teaching, and the manner of it. They had never heard such *doctrine* before; the precepts which he had given were quite new to their thoughts. But their main astonishment was at his manner: there was a certainty, a power, a weight about it, such as they had never seen." (Spurgeon)

b. **The people were astonished at His teachings:** Whenever God's Word is presented as it truly is, with its inherent power, it will astonish people and set itself apart from the mere opinions of man.

i. When we really understand Jesus in this Sermon on the Mount, we should be **astonished** also. If we are not **astonished**, then we probably haven't really heard or understood what Jesus has said.

ii. To have the hearers astonished was a good thing; but it was not good if that was the extent of the effect. A good preacher always wants to do far more than astonish his listeners.