

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

2nd Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 18

Parables

Parables

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks 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 verse support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month’s books, 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 This lesson will introduce the concept of parables using the story of the wise and foolish builders as an example.

Key Verses

Matthew 7:24-27—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Books to Memorize

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, **Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel**

Hook

Give two groups of students building blocks and tell them to build a tower. Have one group build on a solid, flat surface, and the other group on an uneven, shaky foundation (like a rolled-up jacket). At the end, compare their experiences.

Jesus once told a story similar to the activity we just did. He used the differences in foundations to show the difference between those who obey God’s Word and those who don’t. This kind of story is called a parable. Today we will learn about parables and their meanings.

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

Over the next few weeks, we will be studying some of the parables Jesus taught. Parables are short, made-up stories that Jesus used to go along with His teachings in order to make a point. The characters, settings, and actions in the story were meant to represent things in real life. Sometimes parables show us how we should or shouldn't live. Other parables help us to understand something about God and the world He made. We studied some famous parables last year, like the Parable of the Sower, the Good Samaritan, and the Prodigal Son. This year, we will look at some of the other parables Jesus taught.

To help us understand parables a bit better, today we are going to use the parable of the wise and foolish builders as an example. Matthew 7:24-27 records the end of one of Jesus' most famous teachings, the Sermon on the Mount. To finish the sermon, Jesus told a parable about two men who were building houses. The first man was a wise man, and so he chose to build his house on a rock. When the rain, wind, and storm came, the house stood strong because it had a solid foundation. Jesus said that this shows the wisdom of someone who hears Jesus' teachings and obeys them. The other builder chose to build his house on the sand. When he faced those same stormy conditions, his house fell flat because it had no foundation. Jesus compared this to someone who hears Jesus' teachings but does not obey them.

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

LOOK

One of Jesus' favorite ways to teach people was to use parables. Sometimes Jesus explained the parables as he taught them, like He did in today's passage. Other times, He told His disciples later what a parable meant (see Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43). Still some parables have no written explanation. Whether The Gospels record dozens of these stories in the life of Christ. Because of this, it's important that we understand how parables work and learn how to figure out what they mean.

In a parable, the characters, actions, and/or settings often represent something. This is a major key in understanding the parable. In this parable, Jesus explains that the wise man represents a person who hears God's Word and obeys it, while the foolish man represents someone who hears the Word but doesn't live by it. However, Jesus did not tell us what the storm or houses represent. In the Bible, storms usually stand for trials and struggles we may face in our lives, so it's a good bet that's what it means here. The house seems to be our lives, which can either be built on a foundation of obedience (the rock) or disobedience (the sand).

LOOK (Continued)

Now that we know what the different pieces of the parable mean, we need to put it all together. What is Jesus trying to say here? The story contrasts two responses to hearing the Word of God by comparing it to men building a house. Hearing God's Word and obeying it is wise, just like a man who builds his house on a solid foundation. On the other hand, it's foolish to hear God's Word and not obey it the way it's foolish to build a house on a sandy foundation. Just as the storm proved the strength of the wise man's house and the weakness of the foolish man's house, the trials and temptations we face in life reveal the foundation we've built upon. If we build our lives on obedience to the Bible, we will not be shaken in our faith when trials come. But if we live a life of disobedience, those same trials will cause our lives to fall flat.

Notice that in the parable, both the wise man and the foolish man heard the Word of God. The difference was in their responses. As we read this parable, we should look at our own hearts and see how we respond to God's Word. When we read God's commands, do we obey them, or do we reject them? The parable we read today illustrates the consequences of each of these lifestyles.

TOOK

As a class, review the books of the Bible Genesis-Joel.

Review the lesson by asking the students what parables are. Ask what the different elements of the parable (the builder, house, foundations, storm) represent and what the parable means.

Pray: Thank the Lord for teaching us in His Word. Ask for His help to be wise and obey what's written in the Bible.

Parent Question: Why should I obey the things written in God's Word?

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?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Matthew 7:24-27 by David Guzik

5. ([Mat 7:24-27](#)) 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 disappointment 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)