



**CHRISTIAN  
ENDEAVOUR**  
*for Christ and the Church*



# The Teaching of Jesus

## The wise and foolish builders

**Matthew 7: 24-27**

### Teaching aim

To show that Jesus is the only guide for life.

### Setting the scene

Jesus places the story in Israel during the hot season when a river has dried up completely. The sandy shore makes it an attractive place to build a house, and this has been the case with some foolish people who did not appreciate that in the rainy season the river bed became a raging torrent, washing away everything in its path.

A house built on the sand would fall and be washed away.

A wise man would find a rocky area, and on that foundation construct a house which would withstand the rain and the river.

### The man who avoided work

Jesus describes a foolish man who didn't look further than his nose. He did not think. The place looked attractive and so he built his house on the sand. He didn't think about a foundation. Even if he had, it would have meant a lot of work, and the house would have looked no better for it. So he found a short cut.

What was missing? - The foundation.

### The man who did not think

The house the man built was probably very attractive. He was concerned about looks. Not only did he not think about a foundation, he did not think about the way in which the weather changed throughout the year, for after the sunny period came the rains. It happened every year without fail. And, when it rained, it was torrential turning dry river beds into cascading torrents.

What was going to happen? - It was going to rain heavily.

### The man who knew what to do

In the story Jesus talked about another man who was wise, he knew what to do. By the river side he found a rocky area, where he dug a foundation, on which he then built his house. He was ready for all

kinds of weather. When the winter rains came, and the river flooded, his house stood firm. What had this man done? - He built on a foundation.

### What did Jesus say?

Jesus said that if you obey His words and teaching you will have a firm foundation for your life. This happens when we read what Jesus said and what Jesus did. This we find in the Bible, and particularly in the four Gospels, that is Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Read part of it regularly, a few verses every day, and you will discover that Jesus is showing us the way to live.

What did Jesus say? - Obey My teachings.

### Summing up

This story is a reminder to build your life on a lasting foundation, on Jesus as your Saviour and on His teachings. This means reading the words of Jesus. These can be found in the Four Gospels. Resolve to start building that foundation by trusting Jesus and reading part of the Gospels each day.

## Resources

### Memory Verse

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7 : 24

### Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet      “The wise and foolish builders -1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet      “The wise and foolish builders- 2”.

### Activities

Have a supply of trays, sand, pebbles and jugs of water. Place a small book under one end of the tray, then on the tray make a small sand castle, alongside which lay some pebbles. Gently pour the water over the sand and the pebbles, noting how the sand is washed away while the pebbles remain in their position.

### Prayer points

Thank Jesus for:

- teaching us how to live.
- putting His teachings in such lovely stories.

Pray that:

- God will help us to obey His teachings.

# The wise and foolish builders

## True or false

Colour in T if true or F if false.

1. The wise man built his house on the rock. T F
2. The rain and the winds beat against the wise man's house and it fell. T F
3. The foolish man built his house on the sand. T F
4. The foolish man's house stood firm when the rains came. T F
5. If we believe in Jesus, we are like the wise man. T F

## Memory Verse

Colour in the Memory Verse and learn it.

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7: 24

# The wise and foolish builders

## Fill the Gaps

Replace the missing words with words from the list below:

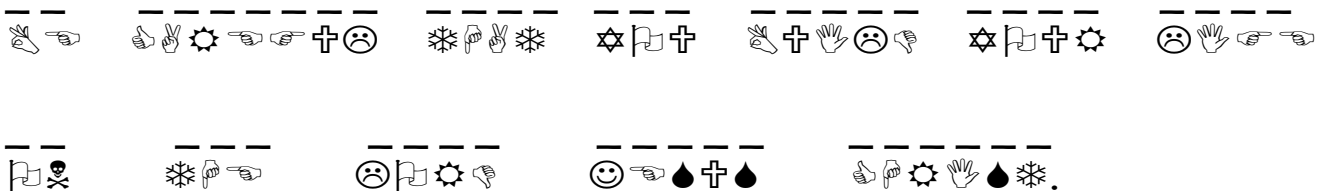
foolish, words, built, everyone, streams, crash, rock, winds, beat, sand, everyone, crowd, wise, foundation

One day Jesus was teaching the \_\_\_\_\_ and he told them that \_\_\_\_\_ who hears his \_\_\_\_\_ and puts them into practice is like a \_\_\_\_\_ man who \_\_\_\_\_ his house on the \_\_\_\_\_. When the rain came down and the winds blew and \_\_\_\_\_ against the house it did not fall because it had its \_\_\_\_\_ on the rock.

Jesus also told the crowd that \_\_\_\_\_ who hears his words and does not put them into practice is like a \_\_\_\_\_ man who built his house on \_\_\_\_\_. The rain came down, the \_\_\_\_\_ rose, and the \_\_\_\_\_ blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great \_\_\_\_\_.

## Wise words

Use the code below to find the message.



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |