

Kid's Slot –April 23-29

Wise and Foolish Builders

OVERVIEW: Build your life on Jesus.- Kids will learn that wise people make Jesus the foundation of their lives.

PREPARATION: Bibles, Optional: Props for Commercials (see game)

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: Luke 6:46-49, Wise and Foolish Builders.

ICEBREAKER:

- What's your favorite kind of fruit?

READ: Wise and Foolish Builders

LIFE APPLICATION:

Read Luke 6:46-49

1. Why did the foolish builder's house fall down?
2. What did the wise builder do differently?
3. What is the meaning of this parable?
4. Why is Jesus the only solid foundation for our lives?
5. How can we build our lives on Jesus?

Wise and Foolish Builders

Sometimes when you're hungry, you grab a candy bar. A candy bar now and then isn't going to hurt you, and let's face it: we all love candy, don't we? Other times when we go for a snack, we reach for something salty. Chips, pretzels, or Cheesy Puffs, they all satisfy when you've got the urge for something salty. But if all we ever eat is sugar and salt, what's going to happen? We're going to get out of shape. We won't have the energy we want or need to play like we should, and our body won't have the good stuff it needs to be strong and healthy.

Thankfully, God has given us some snacks that are full of good stuff. He's given us things that grow in nature that are not only good for you, but just as sweet as candy. He's given us big snacks like bananas, apples, and oranges. He's given us small snacks like strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and grapes. He's even given us exotic snacks like pineapple, kiwi, pomegranates, and something called ugli fruit. If we build our health on junk food, we'll have a junk body. But if we build our bodies with good foods like fruit, we'll be healthy and strong. The same can be said for our spiritual health. Jesus told us we have a choice to build our lives on a shaky foundation - one built on man-made thinking and philosophies - or on the solid ground that is Jesus. It's one of Jesus' most famous parables, and one of the most important.

READ LUKE 6:46-49

Can you build a house over sand? Or in a swamp? Or over mud? Sure you can. You can lay a foundation, build the walls, make a roof, and fill it with all sorts of nice things. But that house is not going to stand for a long time. Wind and rain and erosion are going to destroy that house from the bottom up, and it will eventually crumble.

Houses are not built on shaky ground. Wise builders know they have to dig down and set houses and buildings on a firm foundation. If a house has a solid foundation, it will take a lot more than wind and rain to destroy it. That, Jesus says, is why we need to build our lives on Jesus. Jesus is the firm foundation. He is our God, our Creator, who was and is and is to come. We can build our lives on Jesus knowing that he never changes, and he will always be there for us. He will

help us through the storms of life, and he will keep us standing strong.

Jesus must have known the world would become the crazy place it is now. Everywhere you turn you see celebrities, doctors, and so-called experts who want to give you their solution to life's troubles. You need more money. You need to believe in yourself. You need to send money to buy this book and it will solve all your problems. And people are buying into these solutions because they want a quick fix. They want something that will solve all their problems overnight and make them happy.

The problem is we are a fallen people, and that's not a problem that's going away. As long as we live on Earth, we will struggle with sin and selfishness. We will struggle with temptations, and we will deal with the consequences of sin, sickness and death. There's no quick fix for us. At least, there's nothing that will fix us once and for all. We need a firm foundation for today, for tomorrow, and for ten years from now. We need Jesus.

If you start building your life on Jesus now, the firm foundation will help you hold fast through anything life throws at you. God will be there to help you stand up to peer pressure in elementary school and in high school. He will help you navigate the tough choices you make about your future. He will be there to comfort you when you lose a loved one and your close friends move away. When you move, when sickness changes your life, when things fall apart, you will stand strong, rooted in a firm foundation that can never be shaken.

Jesus knows the struggles we face as humans. He was human himself, and he felt every pain and joy that we will ever feel. Jesus died so he could give us his Holy Spirit to be with us in all life's ups and downs. Why would anyone build their life on something other than the real thing?

Don't build a life on junk food and phony ideas. Set your life on a firm foundation. Make Jesus the foundation for your life, and you will always stand strong!

Fruit Basket Turn-Over

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Have the children sit in a circle. Go around the circle and give each child a fruit name- grapes, apples, or bananas (like you are numbering the children).
- Have one child stand in the middle and call out a fruit name.
- All of the children that were assigned that name stand up and try to find an open spot in the circle. The child in the middle also finds a new spot.
- The child without a seat becomes the new caller.
- The child can say "Fruit Basket Turnover" if they would like all the kids to move.

House Commercials

What You Need: No Supplies (Optional Props for Commercial)

What You Do:

- Have the kids break into two smaller groups.
- One group makes a commercial for the house built on sand and one makes a commercial for the house built on the rock.
- Allow the kids to act out their commercial to the other group.

RETURN:

Return to the Life Group and have the kids share their **Bible Verses or Craft Activity**. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time. Or, you could watch one of the many, many awesome kids' videos available to you on www.rightnowmedia.org – it's free!