



Sneak-a-Peek

A House Built on a Rock

BIG IDEA: The Bible helps me make good choices.

BIBLE BASIS: Matthew 7:24-29

KEY VERSE: "Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way."
Psalm 119:105

★ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

BLOCK PARTY

Supplies: Building blocks

Directions: Work together with the children to build a house out of blocks. When finished, challenge the children to blow the house down. If they can't do it, allow them to knock the house down with their hands. Rebuild a new house and repeat as often as time and interest allow.

Say: In today's true Bible story, Jesus talks about a wise man who built a house that couldn't be knocked down. In a little bit, we're going to find out how the man did it and we're going to learn that **the Bible helps us make good choices.**

Question: Do you have a favorite book? What is it?

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

HOUSE ON A ROCK (Application Activity)

Supplies: Legos™ or similar (enough to build a small house), plastic bin (1 per group), large rock (1 per group), sand (small bucket full), pitcher of water (1 per group), cookie sheet (1 per group)

Say: Jesus said that people who listen to His words and do what He says are like a wise man who builds his house on a rock. No matter what kind of bad things happen, you'll be able to stand strong for God. Let's do an activity that helps us understand what Jesus meant.

Directions: Work as a group to build a small house out of Legos™ or similar. When finished, place the house on a pile of sand in a plastic bin. Slowly pour water near the base of the house and watch as the sand washes away and the house falls down. Next, place the house on a rock. Slowly pour water near the base of the house and watch as the house stands strong.

Say: When we *don't* listen to Jesus and do what He says, we're like the house on the sand. When bad things happen, we get washed away with fear and worry. But when we *do* listen to Jesus and do what He says, we're like the house on the rock. When bad things happen, we stand strong on the Word of God.

Question: Why do you think it's important to listen to Jesus and do what He says?

ALL FALL DOWN

Supplies: None

Say: When we listen to the words of Jesus and do what He says, we're like a wise man who builds his house on a rock. That means we can stand strong on God's Word no matter what happens. Let's play a game that helps us listen for Jesus' words.

Directions: Read the sentences below one at a time. If it's something Jesus said, the children must do a power pose and say, "**The Bible helps me make good choices.**" If it's *not* something Jesus said, the children must all fall down. Continue until all of the sentences have been read.

Sentences:

- "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Matthew 22:37)
- "Don't listen to your mom and dad. Do whatever you want." (NOT Jesus' words.)
- "Do to others what you would want them to do to you." (Matthew 7:12)
- "Take things for yourself and don't share with others." (NOT Jesus' words.)
- "If you love me, obey my commands." (John 14:15)
- "When you feel angry, it's okay to yell mean things." (NOT Jesus' words.)
- "You must love one another, just as I have loved you." (John 13:34)
- "If someone is in your way, it's okay to push them." (NOT Jesus' words.)
- "If you don't like someone, you don't have to be nice to them." (NOT Jesus' words.)
- "Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you." (Matthew 5:44)



WADDLE WALK (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Hula hoop (1 per group), Inflated Balloon (1 per group)

Today's Bible verse:

"Your word (*extend hands like you're holding a book*) is like a lamp (*point up like a candlestick*) that shows me the way (*with palms facing each other, make a squiggly path motion*)." Psalm 119:105 (*extend hands like you're holding a book*).

Directions: Practice the verse together until the children can remember it. When ready, place a hula hoop on the floor. Choose a child to place the inflated balloon between their knees and walk around the hula hoop while saying the Bible verse. They must say the entire verse without dropping the balloon or touching it with their hands. Continue until every child has had a turn. Play additional rounds by challenging the children to walk backwards, hop on two feet, or skip.

THROW BACK (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Stuffed animal (1 per group)

Directions: Have the children stand in a cluster while you stand about 6 feet away with your back to the group. Toss the stuffed animal over your shoulder toward the group of children. Ask the child who catches it, "What happened first in today's Bible story?" Only allow them to tell a small part of the story. Allow the other children to help answer if needed. Next, have the child who caught the stuffed animal toss it over their shoulder so another child can catch it. Ask the next child to catch the animal, "What happened next in the story?" Repeat this until the whole story has been told.

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: Do you read the Bible at home? When do you read it? Where do you read it?

Question: Do you have a favorite story from the Bible? What is it?

Say: Jesus loves spending time with us. One of the ways we can spend time with Jesus is by talking to Him through prayer. In fact, let's do that right now. Let's tell Jesus all of the reasons we love Him.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by telling Jesus about some of the things the children shared. Tell Jesus why you love Him too.