



AT THE BEACH

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the one true, solid foundation for our lives.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to build their life on Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 7:24-27, House on a Rock.

INTRO

How many of you have ever had the chance to build a sandcastle? Did you build yours in a sandbox, or did you build one on the beach?

Not everybody is into swimming or tanning at the beach, and when you're young, there's only so much swimming you can do alone. But every kid can get down in the sand and build a sandcastle. The combination of sand and water makes the beach a kids' natural craft center. With the right tools, you can build an amazing sand sculpture just like you could out of Play Doh or modeling clay.

Of course there's one little problem with sandcastles - they don't last! Sandcastles are made of sand, the worst possible building material you could use if you wanted to make a permanent structure. They're also right there on the beach, and what happens on the beach? The tide comes in every night, and that sandcastle gets washed out to sea.

Long story short, a wise man isn't going to build his home on the sand. He can build sandcastles all day, but if he wants a structure that's going to last, he's going to build on something a little more solid.

Jesus told a story about a man who built a house on sand. Just like the sandcastles we build at the beach, his house did not last. But Jesus wasn't giving the people good home construction advice. Jesus had a much deeper meaning to his story.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Jesus wants us to have a strong foundation for our lives.

READ MATTHEW 7:24-27

MAIN POINT

The parable of the house on the rock and the house on the sand comes at the end of a long sermon Jesus taught: the Sermon on the Mount. It's his final word of the day after sharing many other things with the people. He talked to them about loving others, about living for God, and what it means to truly love God. So why would he end with a story about a wise builder and a very foolish builder?

The message in the parable is to build your life on a firm foundation. That firm foundation is Jesus. Jesus is saying, if you build your life on me and my words, your life will be strong. It will stand up to storms. It will last through time. But if you build your life on any other foundation, it will crumble and fall.

DRIVE IT HOME

That's a very important message. It was important for those who heard Jesus preach that day on the mountainside, and it's important for us today. You don't have to look very far to find people who will tell you they know the secret to a good life. If you buy this book, read this philosophy, and live like this expert tells you, you can have a happy life without God.

The truth is all of these philosophies, self-help teachers, and false religions of the world are sand. They are changing and shifting. They will not last. Hundreds and hundreds of false religions and false teachers have come and gone in this world. They came and went before Jesus, and they have come and gone after him. None of them give us a lasting foundation because none of them come from the one true God.

Jesus is God's Son. He was God's chosen plan to redeem man. Jesus died for our sins, and only Jesus can give us eternal life. If we build our life on Jesus, we are building on a foundation that will last. He shows us how to love others, how to serve our fellow man, and how to share the good news of Jesus with others.

When our life is built on Jesus, we have the strength to withstand the storms of life. We have Jesus by our side, and no wind or rain or storm can knock us down. Jesus will be there, before and after the storm, and he will never leave us.

When we leave this life, the foundation we have in Christ will go with us. We will go to live in Heaven with Jesus. We will live forever with him. We will not be on shifting sand, but on the firm foundation that we built here on Earth.

A wise builder knows he needs a firm foundation if he wants his building to last.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Build your life on the firm foundation of Jesus. Make a commitment to live for him, and bury his words in your heart. No matter what storms come, you will not be shaken, because you will have a life built on the one thing that lasts.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Help us to build our lives on Jesus, and give us a faith that cannot be shaken.

In Jesus' name,

Amen