



Date: _____

Series: Pass the Promise
Fall Year 1, Lesson 16

Build a House That Lasts

Primary Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27

Key Verse: Matthew 7:24, “Therefore, everyone who hears what I say and obeys it, will be like a wise person who built a house on rock.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids are formulating the basis of their values. What is it they believe in? What are the decisions and choices they will make? These are the matters that shape the foundation of their lives and point them toward their future. In a world that offers little solid direction in making godly choices, kids need to know that Jesus tells them what to build their lives upon. Their solid foundation is to hear what God says and then do it. Jesus makes that possible. As we trust in him, he gives us his presence and power to build on such a foundation.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus sacrificed his life for us on the cross so we would be forgiven and be able to be part of his holy building, the church.

Jesus in us: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God dwells in us as we are built on the firm foundation of Christ.

Jesus through us: In Jesus we are connected to one another so we might be his representatives to the world.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- *actor wearing a tool belt and carrying a hammer, nails, boards, and tape ruler*
- *large brick or cornerstone*

A man comes in wearing a tool belt and carrying a hammer, nails, and boards. He lays down his supplies, takes out a tape ruler, and begins to measure areas on the stage. All along he ignores the audience. The large group leader asks him what he is doing. He continues building as he explains that he is building a house. His old house fell over and he wants to build a house that will last. When asked why he would build a house in the middle of Kids Church, his response is that he heard somewhere that if you build your house in church, it would stand. Say to the builder:

Well, the Bible says to build your house on the "Rock." That means build your spiritual house on Jesus. That's just like building your life on Jesus.

Show kids a large brick or cornerstone.

The Bible says Jesus is our cornerstone or foundation. He is the starting place. We are not building a house with hammer or nails. We are building a house that you cannot see. It is in your heart and it lasts forever. When you build your spiritual house on Jesus, it will even help hold your family together. We will do that as we begin today worshipping God and listening to his word.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies:

- *large brick or cornerstone*

Show kids the brick or cornerstone again. Say:

When we build our lives on the cornerstone of Jesus, we can trust that he will love us unconditionally. That means no matter how badly we behave, Jesus will always love us and forgive us.

Think of some things you have done wrong this past week. Tell Jesus silently in your heart that you are sorry. Jesus loves you just the way you are. He will forgive you. But he also loves you so much that he won't leave you stuck in rotten behavior. He loves you enough to help you change some things. Tell Jesus thank you for loving you as you are and tell him you want to build your life on him.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *tool to place in offering plate*

Place a tool in the offering plate. When kids come forward to give their offering to God, the tool reminds them that they are building on him. They build on Jesus as they bring him the offerings of their love and do what pleases him.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies:

- *stack of newspapers*
- *roll of masking tape for every four to five children*

Arrange kids in groups of four to five. Give each group a stack of newspapers and a roll of masking tape. Challenge each group to build the highest tower they can. The tower must be free standing. They will have eight to ten minutes to complete their structure.

After the time limit, have the children move away from their structures. See if any fall over (which is often the case). Explain that those that fell over probably did not have strong foundations. If none fall over, examine the foundations of the structures. A tall building needs a strong foundation. Ask:

What makes a strong foundation in one of these newspaper buildings? What do you think makes a strong foundation to build one's life on?

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Read what Jesus says in Matthew 7:24-27:

“Therefore, everyone who hears what I say and obeys it will be like a wise person who built a house on rock. Rain poured, and floods came. Winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not collapse, because its foundation was on rock.

“Everyone who hears what I say but doesn't obey it will be like a foolish person who built a house on sand. Rain poured, and floods came. Winds blew and struck that house. It collapsed, and the result was a total disaster.”

What two things does Jesus say make for a strong foundation? Jesus says for your house to be built on a strong foundation, you must hear his words and obey them.

Application 1:

Supplies:

- *video, The Miracle Maker: The Story of Jesus (Family Home Entertainment, 2000)—order from <http://www.rapresentin.com/urban-store/ItemId/B00004WI56>*
- *pan of sand*
- *two small containers of basic LEGOs*
- *squirt gun*

Show the section of the house built on sandy land from the video, *The Miracle Maker: The Story of Jesus*. Cue the video to where Jesus says, “Come to me and listen and act on my words” (approximately 16:34). Continue until Jesus says, “Build your house on the rock” (approximately 17:53).

As you discuss this Bible Presentation and video, bring out a pan of sand and set it on the demonstration table. Set out two small containers of basic LEGO brick. Invite two kids up front to start building while you discuss. Both are to see how tall they can make a single stack. One, however, will start his building on the sand; the other starts on the smooth table surface. The building on the sand should fall first because it will be difficult to build on a shifting foundation. However, for additional dramatic effect, you might want to pull out a squirt gun and give the foundation of each a gentle shower.

Each one of you children is building a special house. This isn't a house you can see. It's a spiritual house like we've been talking about. It's who you are on the inside. For an example, let's say that there is someone at school named Buster. He only cares about himself and likes to bully people around. Buster likes to hit and be mean to others and when they are hurt, he doesn't care at all.

Picture this person. Buster is really big, so sometimes it's hard to stop him. On the outside it might look like he has a real strong house, because no one can knock him over.

Does Buster have a strong house on the inside? Does he have a strong spiritual house?

No, he probably doesn't. Buster is probably not really happy on the inside and might be lonely or angry or even want other people to think he's cool, so he becomes a bully.

Now on the other hand, imagine there is this girl, Taylor, who is very small and thin. She's shy, so sometimes people overlook her. Taylor is sometimes the last one picked when the kids are choosing up sides. She doesn't even make very good grades. If people looked only on the outside, they might say she isn't very strong or is quite weak.

But if you were to look on the inside, you would see that Taylor is building a strong spiritual house. She knows that Jesus gave his life for her and loves her just the way she is. She learns what God says in his Word, and she practices it. She tries to love others, just like Jesus. When someone injures her, Taylor can forgive him and she doesn't hold a grudge. That is very hard to do and takes a strong person. It takes one who has built her spiritual house on Jesus.

Now let's say that both Buster and Taylor had something very tragic or painful happen to them. Let's say that they both had a parent who was really sick and was even close to dying. That would be very hard and scary, wouldn't it? It might even seem like it would shake up one's whole world. It would be like a spiritual storm.

In such a storm, who do you think would do the best? Who has the best spiritual house that is able to stand against the storm? Right, Taylor. She knows that no matter what, God will help her. She will pray and trust God to take care of her sick parent.

Application 2:

Supplies:

- *large roll of butcher block paper with an outline of a church. At the top of the picture is written, "We are the church!" At the bottom of the church is written, "Jesus."*
- *tempera paint*
- *brushes*
- *ample water and towels for clean up.*
- *aprons or trash bags for protecting clothing*

Read Ephesians 2:21-22 and discuss.

We are part of a whole building that God is joining together. We are like a building that is made of believers who are attached to each other. Jesus is the cornerstone of the building, or the most important part of the foundation of the building. We, as believers, are built upon Jesus, the cornerstone. God lives in this building because God the Holy Spirit lives in our lives. You might say that this building we are describing is the church. But we are not just talking about the *building* you are in now. We are talking about the church made up of people.

Let's make an illustration of this church. It's made of people like you. These are people who know and trust Jesus as their Savior, and the Holy Spirit lives in them. They are all connected together as one building.

Direct the attention of the kids to the butcher block paper with the large outline of a church on it. At the bottom of the church is the word "Jesus." Say:

That's because Jesus is the cornerstone of the church.

Point out that the top of the paper says, "We are the church!"

Have the kids paint their hands with tempera paint. Then using their painted hands, fill in the outline of the church.

All of the painted hands connect to show we all are connected together. But notice that we are all built on Jesus.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Tell about a time when you were faced with a tough decision. One choice would have been wrong. One choice would have been what God wanted you to do. Even though it was a hard thing to do, you chose to do it anyway. This is an example of building your house on the rock.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- actor wearing a tool belt and carrying a hammer, nails, boards, and tape ruler
- large brick or cornerstone

The Power of the Cross:

- large brick or cornerstone

Offering:

- tool to place in offering plate

Learning Game:

- stack of newspapers
- roll of masking tape for every four to five children

Application 1:

- video, *The Miracle Maker: The Story of Jesus* (Family Home Entertainment, 2000)—order from <http://www.rapresentin.com/urban-store/ItemId/B00004WI56>
- pan of sand
- two small containers of basic LEGOs
- squirt gun

Application 2:

- large roll of butcher block paper with an outline of a church. At the top of the picture is written, “We are the church!” At the bottom of the church is written, “Jesus.”
- tempera paint
- brushes
- ample water and towels for clean up
- aprons or trash bags for protecting clothing

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