

Get Ready!

Obedience School - The Parable of the
Wise and Foolish Man
By Jennifer Wetzel

**Text**

Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV)

Key Quest Verse

“Whether it be favorable or unfavorable, we will obey the Lord our God.”
Jeremiah 42:6 (NIV)

Bible Background

The main thought of our lesson is obedience. In the previous passages in chapters five and six of Matthew, we read about Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Prior to today’s text, Jesus had just set forth to his disciples and to the gathering crowds the standards of living that God expects His children to follow. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus clearly outlines God’s expectations and requirements of us in our Christian walk.

Now, He is stressing the importance of heeding God’s commands. In the parable of the wise and foolish builders, Jesus said, “He who hears these things and does them is like a wise man. He who hears and does not do them is like a foolish man.” He concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a firm emphasis on not just hearing God’s word but on hearing and obeying. This parable instructs its readers to obey God’s commands by living to His standards. The Bible repeatedly emphasizes the importance of living in obedience to God. It is therefore very important that we instill this in the hearts of our students.

Get Ready!

Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: Obedience is a requirement in Christian living.

Feel: A duty or desire to follow God's Word

Do: Obey rules and laws of the Bible, in addition to those of society

Leader's Devotion

Each day, I travel a back country road for approximately 10 miles on my way to and from work. Due to the curves of the road and location of houses alongside it, the entire stretch of road is set at a speed limit of 35 with no passing. Many times, when I'm running late in the morning, my car seems to fly down the road, pushing the speed limit just a little more each time. One dark morning, as I flew past a police car, I realized that I was going 45 miles per hour. Not exactly being obedient, was I?

How many times have you broke or have been tempted to break the speed limit? So many times, it's very easy to push the limits and not obey laws because we cannot see the repercussions. The violation of the speed limit does not strike us as a lawless act, such as drug trafficking. Unfortunately, every violation of a law is disobedience to God.

By breaking laws, either societal or spiritual ones, we harm ourselves and disrespect God. God expects and challenges us to live up to His standards of living and to obey not only His Word but also civil law. By breaking laws, even those little ones we think don't matter, we cheat ourselves out of a wonderful inheritance and dishonor God. Isaiah 1:19 promises that "if you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land." We must strive to be obedient to God's Word, even on those winding, country roads.

Get Set!**Option A**

Title: Staying Within the Lines object lesson

(adapted from www.sermons4kids.com/stayinthelines_print.html)

Materials: 2 pages from a coloring book (1 colored with odd colors and without staying in the lines while the other is neat and stays within the lines)

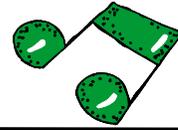
Procedures:

Ask the children if they remembered when they first started to learn to color. Some questions to ask are: **“What did their pictures look like? Were they able to stay within the lines?”** Wait for students’ responses. Then hold up the first coloring page, which contains a picture that has been scribbled. To further illustrate the point, you might use a picture with interesting color choices, such as blue people, green hair, etc. Then ask if their coloring looked similar to this coloring page when they were little. Though they thought it was beautiful at the time, it really isn’t that good of a picture. As they got older, their tastes probably changed and they used different colors. They began staying within the lines. Now, hold up the second picture, colored within the lines. Ask the children which picture they like best. Wait for their responses.

Tell the children that these pictures illustrate how some people live their lives. Through His Word, God has instructed us on the correct standards of Christian living. Some people tend to ignore His instructions and rules, doing whatever they want. These people are like the first picture, scribbled across the page. By not following rules, they have gone outside God’s lines and been disobedient. At the time, they feel that their sinful lives are beautiful. However, this disobedience to God does not improve the quality of their life. In the long run, they will suffer the consequences of sin, such as not being allowed into God’s Kingdom. The big picture shows that their disobedience can lead to ruin. **“So, is that really a beautiful picture?”**

God prefers that we behave like the second coloring page. We need to strive to stay within the “lines”, which are His boundaries. But how do we stay within the lines? We need to read the Bible and learn God’s rules. Throughout both the Old and New Testament, God shows us what his rules and expectations of Christian living are. After learning God’s rules, we need to put them into practice and strive to follow them. Sometimes, we may mess up and stray outside the lines. But that’s okay when we ask God for forgiveness. He’ll erase that mistake to put us back within his lines. **“When we are obedient to God, we become beautiful pictures for God.”**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Option B****Title:** Make a Joyful Sound**Materials:** voices**Procedures:** Have students sing and act “The Wise Man and the Foolish Man”

The wise man built his house upon a rock
The wise man built his house upon a rock
The wise man built his house upon a rock
And the rains came tumbling down

The rains came down as the floods went up
The rains came down as the floods went up
The rains came down as the floods went up
And the house on the rock stood firm

The foolish man built his house upon the sand
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
And the rains came tumbling down

The rains came down as the floods went up
The rains came down as the floods went up
The rains came down as the floods went up
And the house on the sand fell flat

So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
And His blessings you will know

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

Bible Story

Have space where students can stand to make motions as you read the Bible story to them. Ask students to follow your actions as you read the verses.

“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.” Place your hands one on top of the other in a building motion and then make a fist with your right hand and place it on your left palm. **“The rain came down...”** Lift your hands in the air and let them fall, using your fingers to imitate the way rain falls. **“The streams rose ...”** With palms facing up, lift your hands higher and higher. **“And the winds blew and beat against that house ...”** Wave your hands back and forth in the air rapidly. **“Yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”** Make a fist with your right hand and pound it into the palm of your left hand. **“But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice ...”** Cup hand to ear as if you are listening for a voice. **“Is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.”** Place your hands one on top of the other in a building motion and then make use your hands with palms down to demonstrate smooth ground. **“The rain came down ...”** Lift your hands in the air and let them fall, using your fingers to imitate the way rain falls. **“The streams rose ...”** With palms facing up, lift your hands higher and higher. **“And the winds blew and beat against that house ...”** Wave your hands back and forth in the air rapidly. **“And it fell with a great crash.”** Spread arms apart and then clap hands in a big swoop. (Repeat the story, now that the students know what to expect with the actions)

Go!**God Says****GAME**

Materials: open space clear of all materials for students to stand and move around

Quest Connection

Today, we will play the game Simon Says. To win this game, you must listen carefully to the leader and follow all of their commands. If you complete an action when it is not “Simon says ...,” you must leave the game. This game represents living in a Christian manner. To “win” in the game of life, you must listen carefully to God’s rules and obey them. Only when God says to do something should you do it. Disobedience to His rules and commands can make us forfeit life in His eternal Kingdom.

Procedure: Tell the students that they will play a short version of Simon Says today. Briefly explain the game to the students and review the rules of the game. **“The leader, which is me, will call out directions. When I say “Simon says ...,” you must follow that action. If I do not say “Simon says,” then you should not do that item. If you do, then you must leave the game and return to your seat.”** If time allows, play this game until one student has won. If time is short or if only a few students drop out of the game, then only play until students have grasped the concept of the game. Have the entire class stand in the open space. Ask them to leave enough room (at least arm’s length) between each other. To begin the game, the teacher should be the leader and call out directions. Continue to play the game until one player is left or for approximately 10 minutes. At the close of the game, have students return to their seats.

The teacher should ask the students the following questions and discuss the answers with them for approximately 5 minutes. **“How did (student’s name) win the Simon Says game? Did he/she listen carefully to the directions? Who did not win the game? Why not? How important is careful listening in this game? How important is it to follow directions in this game?”**

Go!**God Says Cont.**

Now, the teacher will lead a discussion on “God Says” with the students. Read the following statements to the students. Have them answer yes or no to each statement. Then, ask students to explain why they would answer yes or no to each statement. The teacher should affirm their answers with explanations or appropriate Bible verses. This activity should take approximately 10 minutes.

God says to obey our parents.

God says to be kind to our friends and neighbors.

God says to yell and hit when we are angry.

God says to come to church and praise him.

God says that we should watch television shows and movies with violence.

God says to lie when we do something bad.

God says to turn the other cheek when someone is unkind or unfair to us.

God says to ask for forgiveness of our sins.

God says to cheat on our homework and tests.

God says to help others.

Close

To close this activity, help students relate the “God Says” discussion back to the “Simon Says” game. Point out the importance of listening and obeying in each aspect of class. To win “Simon Says,” a player must always listen carefully and obey the commands of the leader. In our Christian lives, we must listen carefully to what God says. We must listen to and follow His rules in order to win. Use the following prayer to close. **“Heavenly Father, help us learn to listen to your rules. We want to learn your rules for our lives and to follow them. As we try to obey you, please give us strength. Let us always live lives obedient to You. Amen.”**

Go!**Sticky Situation****FOOD Be aware of food allergies!****Materials:** table, a jar of peanut butter, a jar of jelly, a loaf of bread, plate, butter knife**Quest Connection**

Procedure: In this game, students must learn to give clear and step-by-step directions so that their partner can make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The students taking the directions cannot do anything except those things as told to them by their partner. The students must listen carefully to the directions before doing exactly what their partner says. Students should see that in order to have a Christian life, we must listen closely to God and do exactly as He instructs us.

Procedure: Spread the materials out on the table. Do not open the bread, peanut butter, or jelly. Have two volunteers come to the front of the classroom. Have one student stand at the table facing all of the ingredients. The other student should stand directly behind the first student with their backs facing each other. The second student should not be able to see the table or ingredients. **“Today, we are going to make a peanut butter sandwich. Student 1 (Name) will give Student 2 (Name) directions on how to make the sandwich. Student 2 must do exactly what Student 1 says to do and cannot do anything else. They cannot do things until Student 1 tells them to. Here we go!”** Give the students time to make the sandwich. Usually, the student giving directions will forget to tell the other student to open the bread or take the lid of the peanut butter and jelly. They will also generalize their directions, such as “put the peanut butter on the bread.” They didn’t tell the other student to use the knife to spread the peanut butter on the bread. So, as the example continues, both of the volunteers see that the directions must be very specific and followed exactly as given. Continue until the sandwich is complete, prompting and helping students when needed. If time allows, put the entire class in pairs. Have each pair make a peanut butter sandwich in this way to see if they can do better after seeing the example. Then, allow time for discussion of the lesson. **“It was hard to make that peanut butter sandwich, right? We had to give clear, specific instructions and follow them exactly as they were said. But, all that hard work was worth it! Look at the yummy sandwiches we have made. Did you know that God gives us specific directions on how to live our lives? The Bible is full of His instructions on living a Christian life. And, if we listen closely and obey His rules, we will have a great reward, which is eternal life in His Kingdom!”**

Close

Thank you God for giving me clear rules to follow in my life! Help me to always follow them so that I can live in your Kingdom. Amen.

Go!**Police Pals****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: invite a police officer to visit your church and speak with your class

Quest Connection

In the parable of the wise and foolish builders, Christ instructs us to always obey God's word. Throughout the Bible, we learn that we are to follow all rules, including civic rules in addition to God's rules. Just as God gives us rules to guide us, He gives us people to guide us. Police-men help us follow the rules so that nothing bad happens.

Procedure: Ask your guest to share the following information (also allow time for students to ask their own questions):

How did you become interested in becoming a police officer?

Is there someone who inspired you to enter law enforcement?

What do you do at work?

What is your favorite thing about your job?

How do you make sure that people follow the rules?

What happens to people who do not follow the rules?

What advice would you give to someone who wanted to become a police officer?

Do you have a favorite Bible story or verse you would like to share with us?

Close

Have the class recite the memory verse for the guest. Then, ask the class guest to close with prayer.

Go!**Busy Builders****CONSTRUCTION****Materials:** Legos or other building blocks**Quest Connection**

In the parable of the wise and foolish builders, the wise man built on a strong foundation, and thus, his house stood in spite of the storms. We need to build our lives on a strong foundation so that we do not collapse in the hard times. Our strong foundation is God's word.

Procedure: Divide the students into several groups, with at least 2-3 students in every group. Situate the groups so that each group has a different surface on which to build, such as carpeting, a table, and unsteady box, etc. Give each group a set of Legos or other building materials. **“Today, I want you to try to build the highest building that you can using all of your Legos. Everyone has 5 minutes to build a high building without it tipping over on their surface. Are you ready? Go!”** Give the students 5 minutes to work on building high towers which don't fall over.

After the five minutes are over, let each group of students share their building. Have them tell whether or not it tipped over and things about their work that contributed to it staying up or falling over. Students who had uneven or unsteady spaces would have found it more difficult to build their towers while those working at a table might have had a better opportunity to build a high tower that stays put. After students have a chance to discuss their building, point out to them factors that affected their building, such as the surface, not having a good foundation, etc.

Close

“Building without a steady foundation can be very difficult. We need to make sure that when we build our lives, we build them on strong foundations. How do we do that? We need to learn and follow God's rules and obey His commandments. We build on Christ the Rock. Then, we have a strong basis for our lives. By following His rules, our lives will not collapse like our Lego towers.”

Go!

Crafty Construction**ART****Materials:** glue, popsicle sticks, markers, paint, paper towels, scraps of construction paper

Quest Connection

In today's lesson, both the wise man and the foolish man were building houses. They used different foundations with very different results. Today, let's build strong houses that will stand firm.

Procedure: Hand out the craft supplies to the students. Give them time to create houses out of the materials. While the houses are drying, review the text with the students or have them complete the worksheets. Then, allow the students to test their houses to see if they are strong and to show them to others.

Close

Thank you Lord for being our strong foundation. Let us build our lives on You so that we can remain strong in all situations. Let us obey You always. Amen.

Go!

Parable Stones



Arts & Crafts

Materials:

1 cup flour	1 cup used coffee grounds
1/2 cup salt	1/4 cup sand
1 cup water	1 tablespoon powdered tempera paint (any desired color)
Mixing bowl	Mixing spoon
Optional: cookie sheet	Pearls (fake ones-cut from a strand-available at dollar stores)

Note: Use of oven will allow students to take stones home today.

Quest Connection

Today we have talked about Christ's teachings. He taught us so many things in parables. One of those is the parable that compares the Kingdom of God with a pearl of great value. **Matthew 13:45-46.** (Read verses) We are going to make a parable stone that will remind us to build on the rock, but there is something special about this stone. Inside it will contain a treasure. This will be great to show to some of the younger kids in our church. We are going to make these stones and inside we are going to put a pearl. It will represent that building on the teachings of Christ leads to all the wonderful things that will be revealed someday when Christ returns. It also reminds us that when we learn about the teachings of Christ we are gaining a precious treasure in our hearts that is made up of faith, love, hope ...

Procedure:

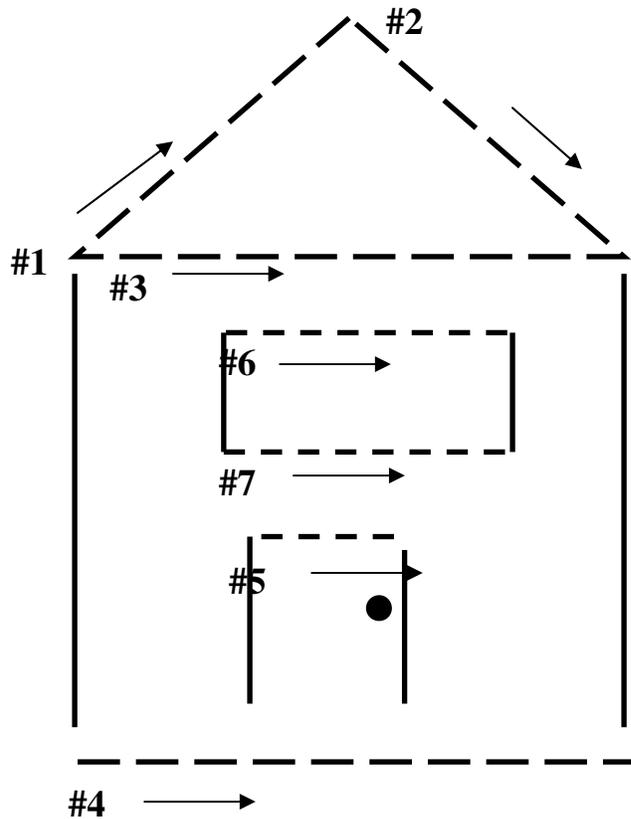
1. Combine all dry ingredients in a medium mixing bowl.
2. Add water, and stir until the mixture is the consistency of bread dough. Add 1 tablespoon powdered tempera paint to tint the stone.
3. Break off a baseball-size piece of dough, and roll it into a ball.
4. Make a hole in the center of the ball big enough to hide the pearl
5. Fill the hole with a treasure and seal with dough.
6. Let your stone air-dry for 2 to 3 days or until hard or bake on a cookie sheet in a 150-degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes.

Close

There is one other verse I would like to read to you today. It is from Revelation 21:21. (Read verse.) This is a description of the pearls that God will use in the New Jerusalem when it is set up on the earth someday. Isn't that incredible? A city with building materials of pearls and gold. God loves us so much that He is giving us all this if we follow Him and His son. Let's Pray. Father, help us to always follow You and do the things which make You happy. Help us to live in the way that Jesus did. We love You and Jesus and look forward to being with You in Your Kingdom. Amen.

BUSY BUILDER

Our busy builder has forgotten how to build his house! Use your Bible and to find the answers to the following questions. Put the answers in the correct spaces to help our busy builder complete his home.



- 1- “Therefore everyone who hears these _____ of mine.” (Matthew 7:24)
- 2- The foolish man built his house on the what? (Matthew 7:26)
- 3- Who should hear God’s words? (Matthew 7:24)
- 4- We should put God’s words into _____ . (Matthew 7:24)
- 5- Who built his house on the rock? (Matthew 7:24)
- 6- After the rains came down, what rose? (Matthew 7: 25)
- 7- What kind of man built his house on sand? (Matthew 7: 26)

Wise and Foolish Builders

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

Find these words in the puzzle. After you have found all of the words, you will read a hidden message. Write the message in the blanks below.

FOOLISH
 FOUNDATION
 HEAR
 HOUSE
 RAIN
 ROCK
 RULES
 SAND
 WINDS
 WISE



Art Time: Download the “Wise and Foolish Builders” coloring sheet from:
http://www.sermons4kids.com/wise_or_foolish_colorpg.htm
For added fun, give students paint and Q-Tips. Have them paint the rain with dots.

My Journal Page

Describe a time when you disobeyed your parents or teacher and tell what the consequences were. Then, describe a time when you obeyed the rules and what the result of obedience was.

