

*Get Ready!***Stand on the Rock  
of Jesus Christ**

By: Nikki Green

**Text**

Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49

**Key Quest Verse**

“By standing firm you will gain life.” Luke 21:19 (NIV)

**Bible Background**

Jesus’ favorite teaching tools were stories or parables. The word parable means to “cast along side.” A simple concept is cast along side another using more complex ideas to help explain the other. We know that a picture is worth a thousand words and Jesus was the best at creating word pictures. In this picture story or parable, Jesus used familiar symbols so the listener could relate and respond. This parable was to stimulate the hearer into a behavioral change, or thought or belief change. Jesus wanted followers who had a firm belief and acted on what was the Christian thing to do. They not only talked the talk, they walked the walk!

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

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**What I want my students to:**

**Know:** Jesus needs to be in our lives.

**Do:** We need to live for Him, and put all our trust in him.  
We must stand firm on the belief that Jesus is ready to help us through anything.

**Feel:** Problems fall on us like rain. We can sink in our own sand, or stand firm with Jesus.  
He is our rock.

**Leader's Devotion**

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I believe this story has weathered the elements. No wind, no storm, no flood has erased it from the sands of time. What a beautiful picture of Jesus, teaching about his two main careers. He had been a carpenter by trade, and an authority on spirituality by position. One father taught him how to build a worthwhile house. The other Father taught him how to help others build worthwhile houses, within themselves. We as teachers have from time to time built on “sands” of our own liking. How quickly our little huts fall when they’ve been built in the sand. We have a responsibility to these children to let them know, “you don’t have to fail by trial and error ... you can hear a story and learn from what other people have done.” It’s scary to be searching for shelter during a rough storm. I certainly don’t want to be out during a thunderstorm or tornado warning, hunting for where I can go. I’ve learned my lesson. I not only dug up the ground to find a firm rock to build on, I poured a foundation of concrete and then began to build. Building is an ongoing project. I love that! How boring life would be if our houses never changed.

*Get Set!*



## Option A

**Materials:** Two baby food jars, two stones (that can fit into your jars), sand, two clear plastic cups or glasses, black marker

**Preparation:** Measure the amount of sand needed to fill each jar with one rock inside. Pre-fill your two clear plastic cups (or glasses) with sand. The rocks should be close to the same size, so that the amount of sand needed is the same. Make one cross on each rock with your marker.

**Procedure:** Show one jar and one rock to your class. Say, **see the cross on this rock? This will be Jesus. Jesus is our rock. See this empty jar? This is my life. I'm going to place Jesus in my life first. He is most important, so He goes in my life first.** Place the stone in the jar. Now, **I have a lot of other things that I think are important. I don't want to leave them out. I have family, friends, and teaching at church. I also enjoy cooking, going to movies, (whatever else is applicable), and I don't want to take those things out of my life.** Show your clear cup of sand. **There is a lot of sand in here. This sand is like the many other important things in my life.** Pour sand over rock in your jar.

**Now with Jesus at the center of my life, everything else fits in there pretty well. Let's see what happens when Jesus is not first in our lives.** Show the new jar and stone. **Now what does this rock stand for? Jesus. How about the empty jar? My life. The sand is all the "stuff" in my life.** Show sand. **This is the same amount of sand I put in our last jar. I'm going to fill my life up with the many things I like to do, and the people I like to see.** Pour sand into jar. **Now let's try to fit Jesus into my life. Push stone into the sand. Sand will spill out. Oh dear, there is not enough room for Jesus! I think I needed to start with Jesus. What do you think?**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

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**Get Set!****Option B**

**Materials:** One glove, two plastic bottles (one must have a screw-on lid)

**Procedure:** Screw lid on one of the empty plastic bottles.

Set both plastic bottles on the table. **Let's pretend these bottles are people.** Take the bottle without the lid and lay it on its side. **This person does not have Jesus in his life. He's lying down because bad things have been knocking him down.** Put on glove. **This glove is trouble. Name some troubles that could happen to this guy. Maybe his mom is upset with him. Maybe he is getting bad grades in school. Maybe someone he loves is sick or hurt. Do you think he will handle all of this trouble okay without Jesus?** Smash bottle with gloved hand. **He did not handle that so well, did he?** Take capped plastic bottle and lay it on its side. **This is a person full of Jesus Christ.**

Now this person has had "trouble" hitting him also. **He fell on his side, but he hasn't been crushed. Let's see what happens when our big fist of trouble hits him.** Hit the capped bottle. **He didn't get smashed! He doesn't even look hurt!**

**We must fill our lives with Jesus. Even though "troubles" will certainly come into our lives, we must stay full of Him. Remember you can't crush Christ!**

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

**Get Set!****Bible Story**

**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

**He huffed and he puffed and he *BLEW* the house down!** Who can tell me what story that comes from? (The three little pigs). What happened to the first two houses in that story? Did the pigs work very hard on their houses? They wanted to play, so they built their houses quickly. The houses did not turn out to be strong enough. The wolf blew hard and knocked them down. In this story, the third pig does work hard on his house. His house is strong and can withstand the strong blows.

Jesus tells a story similar to this fairy tale. Jesus' story is also about houses and strong blows, or wind. Jesus was speaking to a crowd of people. He wanted them to understand how important it was to follow His words. He said those who put His words into practice are like a wise man that built his house on a rock, or a firm foundation. This man took the time to find the right spot for his house. He dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. This wise, or smart guy took his time and built his house the exact way he should. In other words, he was following Jesus' words and doing the right things with his life. When winds, rain, and flood hit his house, it will remain strong and not move.

Jesus also mentioned the not-so-smart guy, or foolish man, who hurried and just built his house on the sand. Now, how well does sand hold up in a windstorm, rainstorm, or flood? Does it stay put? Sand shifts and moves, and gets blown easily. Jesus said this guy's house will fall with a great crash.

Let's talk about what all of this means. Jesus is the rock. The house is your life. The rain, wind, and floods are problems and temptations that come into your life. Let's name a few problems that could come into our lives. If the children don't mention any, you could say: sickness, fighting, divorce, etc. Do you want to take a short cut and build your house the quickest way possible? If you do, you can go out and play sooner. The problem is, that house – or your life – will be hit with problems from time to time. If you don't have your life built on Jesus, who will be there to help you through the tough times? Do you want to keep rebuilding your house after each problem, or strong wind, comes? It would be a lot nicer just to take your time and build it right the first time.

You could follow up the story by singing, "The wise man built his house upon the rock". If you don't know this song, but someone in your church does, you could have him or her be a guest song leader during story time. This song helps reinforce the story. If you have time, you could serve "sand"wiches. Just make sure your students finish them, we don't want to see any "sand" left!

**Go!****Stand Firm****ART**

**Materials:** Large stone (or slab of cement), tub full of sand

**Quest Connection**

**Procedure:** Fill tub full of sand and plan activity for outside. Have each student take socks and shoes off. They will take turns. Each student will stand with one foot in the sand and the other on the rock. As they stand there ask, **does one foot feel like it has strength under it? Which foot holder would remain strong in the rain?** Have the students in the class say, **“By standing firm you will gain life.”** The goal is for you to put both feet on the rock before we finish saying the memory verse. By the time the memory verse has been quoted, the student should have both feet on the rock. Let each student get a chance to feel the sand and the rock under their feet. Their goal will be to get both feet on the rock before the memory verse is completed.

**Close**

**Did the rock feel strong under your foot? That is Jesus. He is our rock and has strength to overcome anything. Let’s stand firm on Him.**

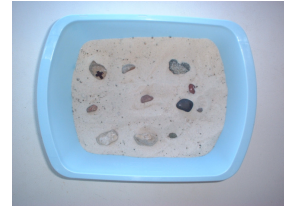
**Go!****Balloon Storm****GAME****Materials:** One balloon per child**Quest Connection****Procedure:** Blow up and tie balloons before class.

Hand out balloons. Tell students **normally** when we see balloons it's time to celebrate. **These balloons will be different. I want you to name them. Not just any name. The name has to be a problem. For example, you could name your balloon "sickness", "fighting", "divorce", "broken arm", or "name calling". Pick a name. Once you have a name, we will begin our Balloon Storm. Here's how to play: You will toss your balloon into the air and keep hitting it so it stays up. Each time you touch your balloon, you *whisper* your balloon's name. We will make a huge balloon storm with many problems over our heads. When I say, "Stand firm!" you are to stand up straight and tall. Let the balloons bounce off of you and onto the floor. Play this as many times as you like. You could encourage them to change their balloon names every few minutes of play.**

**Close**

**Our lives will have problems bouncing around over our heads from time to time. Some problems may even bounce in our faces. We need to stand firm in our belief of Jesus. He will get us through the rough storms of life.**



**Go!****Buried Treasure****OBJECT LESSON**

**Materials:** At least one rock per student, basin (or large container) full of sand, wet wipes, different colored markers

**Quest Connection**

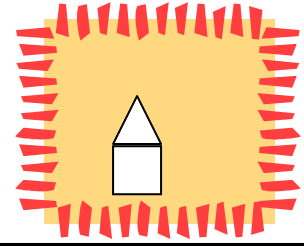
**Procedure:** Have students dig for buried treasure. Once they pick their special rock, they return to their seat and clean it with a wet wipe. Next they are to choose a marker to draw a cross on their rock. If they would like, they could draw a red heart first, then draw a cross over the heart.

**Close**

What a treasure we have in Jesus. The Bible calls Jesus “the living stone” in 1 Peter 2:4. Our special stones can remind us of the strength of Jesus. He is better than any buried treasure you could imagine. He can give you eternal life. Gold, silver, and precious jewels can only buy so much. They can’t buy your way into the kingdom. Only the solid rock of Jesus can get you there.



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**Go!**

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**You Be The Artist****ART**

**Materials:** Sandpaper, yarn, and scissors

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**Quest Connection**

**Procedure:** Preparation: Cut yarn into different sizes: 4 inch, 6 inch, and 12 inch sizes  
Each student will get a piece of sandpaper and some yarn. This works like a flannel board. Encourage the students to make a house with their yarn. They could make clouds and lightening in the sky. Give them a few minutes to be creative.

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**Close**

**This paper is actually sandpaper, so now let's build a house on the sand. Build a good house.** Wait for them all to get a house made. **Now on the count of three I'm going to say, "Storm!" and you pull your house off the sand to destroy it. "One, two, three.... Storm!" Our houses on the sand held up just as well as the one in Jesus' story.** Keep the sandpaper and yarn for play at a later time.

**Go!****Wise Windsocks****ART**

**Materials:** Styrofoam cups, markers, ribbon, string, ink pen, tape

**Quest Connection****Procedure:**

Poke string through two places in the top of the cup. You may use the tip of an ink pen to poke the holes. Tie string. This string should be approximately 20 inches long. Cut ribbon into 20 inch pieces prior to class. Give each child one Styrofoam cup, twelve ribbons, tape to use, and markers to decorate their cup. Part of your class may be decorating their cups, while the other half uses the tape for their ribbons. It is easiest to place tape on the end of the ribbon, then place it inside the cup.

**Close**

**We can hang our windsocks outside. It is fun to watch them blow in the wind. Remember, scary winds may come into our lives. We need to trust in our Lord to get us through. If we are wise, we will start to pray the second a big wind, or problem, comes!**

**Go!****Sandman or Wiseman****GAME**

Materials: None

**Quest Connection****Procedure:**

This is a word game. We need to be wise, or smart, and build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus. When we build our lives the right way, we make good decisions and follow what the Bible says. We need to be like the wise man in Jesus' story. We should fill our lives with good and avoid the bad. Everyone stand up. I'm going to tell you something. If what I say is a good thing to fill your life with, say "Wiseman!" and remain standing. If what I say is not a good thing for our lives, sit down, and say "Sandman!" Proceed with "good" and "bad" sentences.

For example: I'm going to church today. I'm going to help Mom plant flowers. I'm going to tell the kid riding his bike on the road to "get a clue" and quit showing off. I'm going to play checkers with my sister. I'm going to destroy my brother's Lego castle because he won't share. I'm going to read my Bible. I'm going to hit my cousin if he doesn't shut his mouth. I'm going to lie if Mom asks what I was doing. I'm going to tell my friend about Jesus.

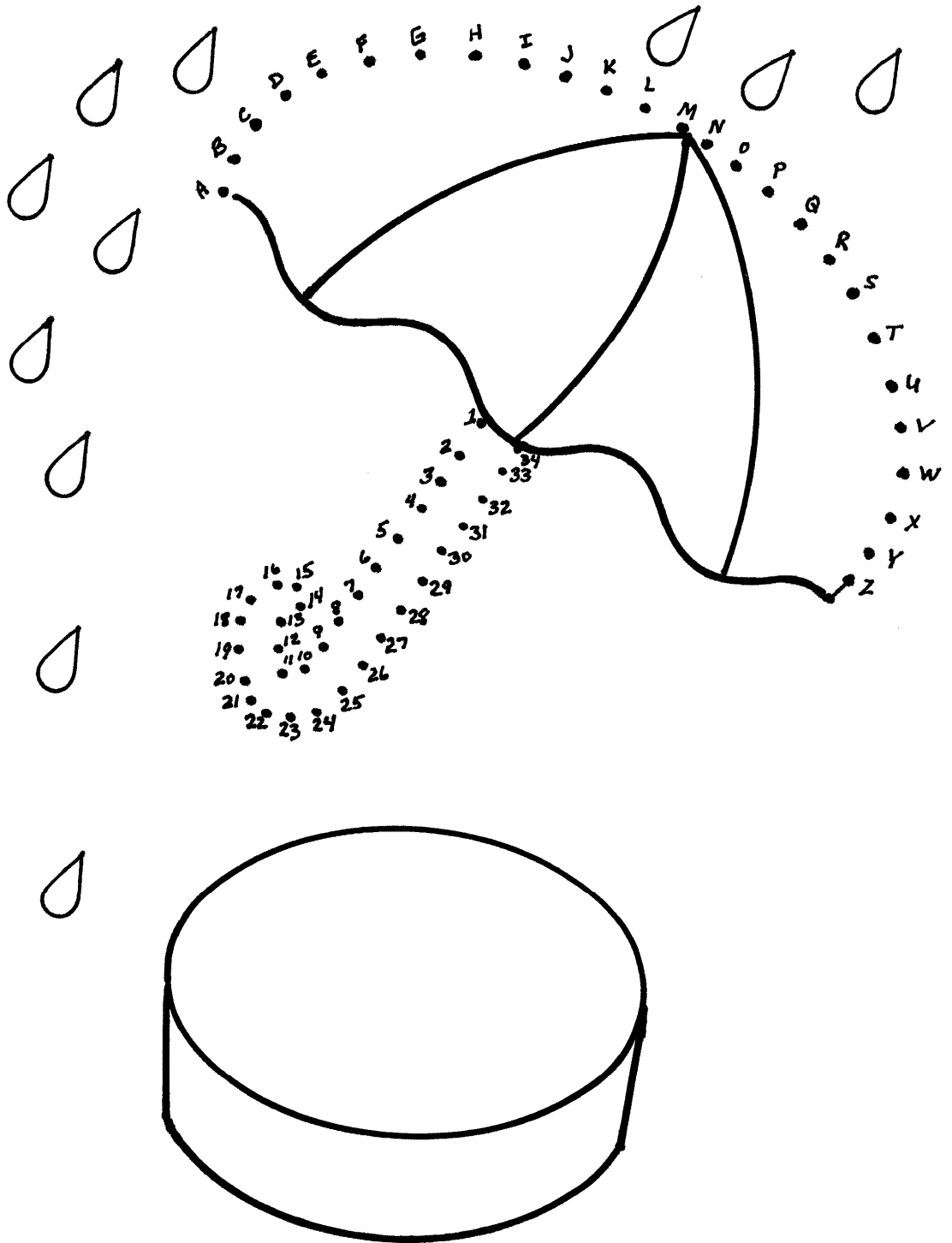
**Close**

Our story today was about a wise man that did what God expected of him. He took his time and built his house the right way. He built it on a firm foundation. We also learned about a "Sandman" or a foolish man who built his house on the sand. This house could easily be washed away or destroyed. Pretend our lives are the houses these men built. Which house would you rather be? The house that can't be destroyed by any kind of weather, or the house that will surely fall? I pick the Wiseman for my carpenter. Just think, Jesus had been a carpenter. He knew what He was talking about!

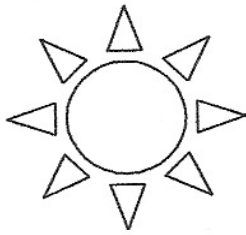
**Journal Page:** Write some problems in your cloud or draw yourself with a sad face. Write your name and draw a smiley face in the sunshine. Draw a cross in your sunshine also. Jesus is the reason for your smile!



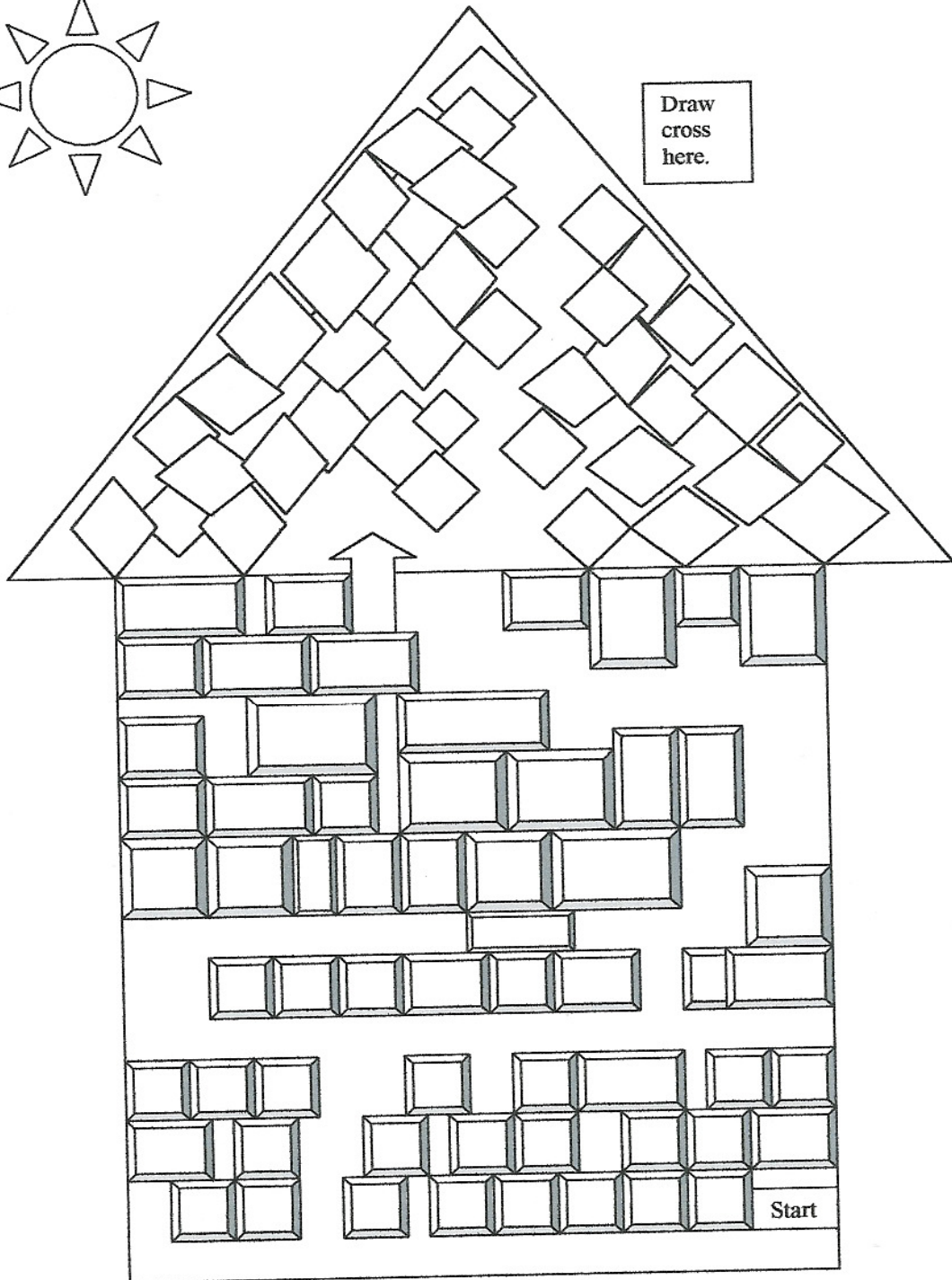
**“By standing firm you will gain life.” Luke 21:19**



Do your dot to dots. Draw a picture of yourself on the rock of Jesus. He will shelter you from the bad weather. Color your picture.



Draw  
cross  
here.



Work your way up the house maze. Once you are through the roof, turn your house into a House of God and add a cross. The House of the Lord will stand firm.

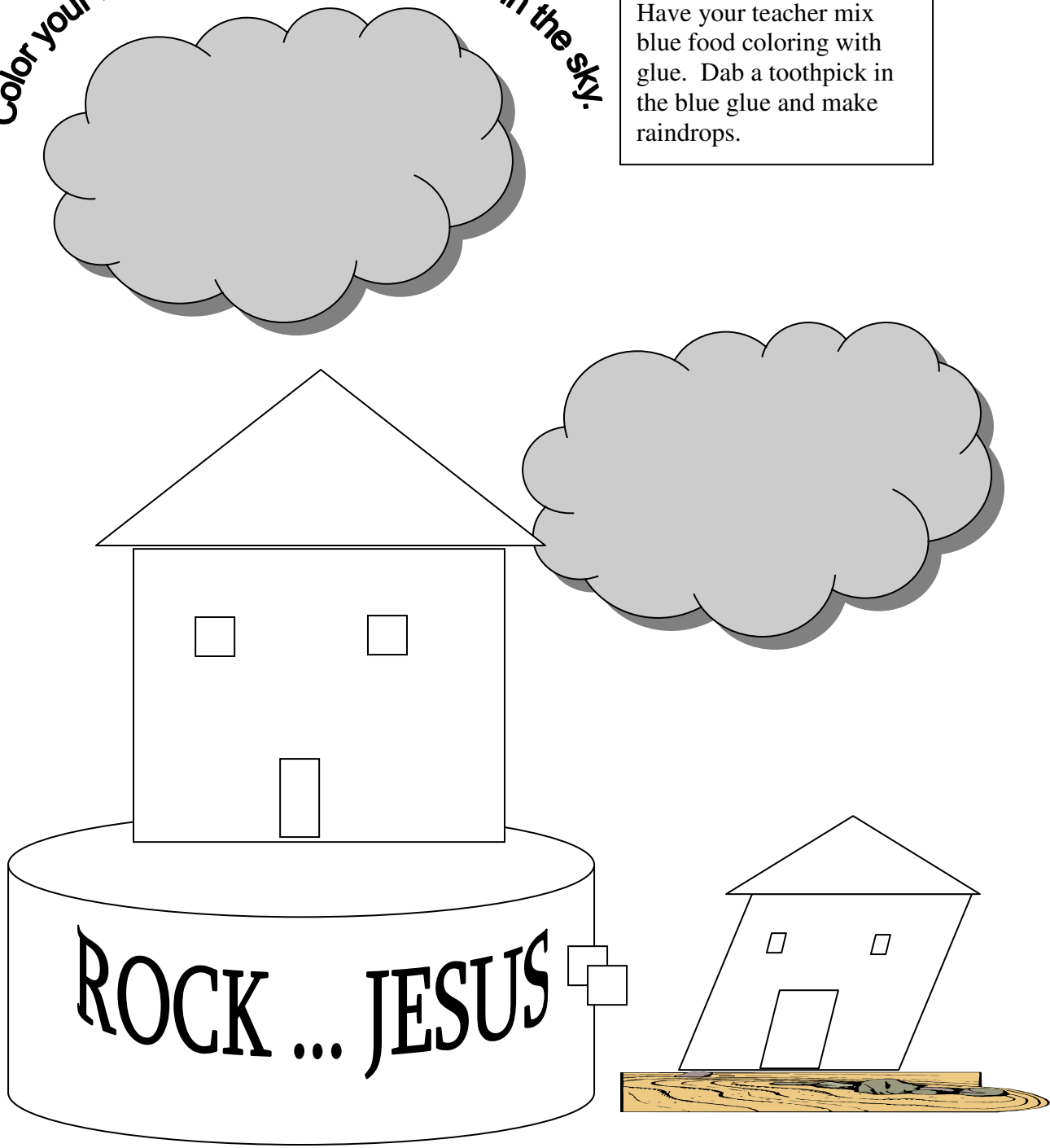
# How Wise Are You?

What comes next? Follow the pattern.



Color your houses. Put lightning bolts in the sky.

Have your teacher mix blue food coloring with glue. Dab a toothpick in the blue glue and make raindrops.



**“By standing firm you will gain life.” Luke 21:19**