

*Get Ready!***The Wise and Foolish Builder**

By: Betsy Moore

**Text**

Matthew 7:21-28, Luke 6:46-49

**Key Quest Verse**

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”  
Psalm 119:11

**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 these 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!***Build on a firm foundation!****Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

- Know:** Jesus wants us to build a firm foundation for our lives!  
**Feel:** Desire to hear God's word and put Him # 1  
**Do:** Listen, obey, and serve God

**Leader's Devotion**

Have you ever seen someone build a house of cards? It's interesting how delicately they place each card on top of another only to see them all fall. Some people are building their lives the same way, trying to make sure their cards are in line to be prosperous and successful, not thinking of building their future for God's kingdom. The parable of the wise and foolish builder cuts right to the heart! Jesus exposed those people who sounded religious but were not. They could talk the talk but they didn't walk the walk. Our responsibility as a teacher is to help our students build a firm foundation with a future serving God. Read **James 1:22-27**.

Get Set!

Option A

**Materials:** A deck of cards or box of sugar cubes, Lego blocks, paper bags, hot water, 2 cake pans. Make sure houses are built in the cake pan!

**Procedure:** Divide class in half and give instructions for each group to build a house with items in the bag. Place cards or sugar cubes in one bag and lego blocks in the other bag.

**I have materials to build a house in each of these bags. Each team has 3 minutes to build a house. Take your time and work together as a team. (wait 3 minutes)**

**You've both done a great job working together trying to build a house. Who had a difficult time building their house? Why was it hard to build a house? Which house do you think will last longer? Let's see. (pour hot water over each house) In our story today we're going to learn about two different men who built houses and how one house stood and the other house fell down.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



# Get Set!

## Option B

**Materials:** a map to a hidden treasure that you make yourself with a clue as to where to find the first clue, and a wooden cross.

**Procedure:**

There was a time, when someone who had something of great value would often bury their treasure so that no one could find it and take it away. To make sure that they would remember where it was, they would often make a map like this one. Usually they would mark the spot where the treasure was with an "X" like this one.

Have you ever dreamed of finding a map that would lead you to a treasure. I know where a treasure is hidden and we must follow this map to find it. (go on treasure hunt) Well, this morning I want to tell you about a treasure that God has given us if we only build our lives on a firm foundation. Our treasured reward started with Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and will complete when we receive the gift of salvation in God's kingdom. Let's go to our story and learn how to receive that gift.

Suggested clues:

Clue #2 is under a pew.

Roses are red and violets are blue, go to the water fountain to find the next clue.

I know it's so hard to wait, So for the next clue, look at a calendar on this date.

Now follow your guide, and you'll find the next clue on the slide.

Success you've achieved on the next place you go, You'll find the clue at the puppet show.

Check under a gate, before the next clue escapes.

There's nothing to fear, because the clue is so near! Open the office door and the clue is on the floor!

Roses are red and violets are blue, go to the swing to find the next clue.

Now for the next clue you should have good luck, if you just go look on the mirror of a truck!

There's nothing to fear, because the treasure is here X (have the map) (hide the cross there)

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

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

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

**Materials:** 1/2 batch of cookies leaving out the soda and eggs, ring with fake stone and a ring with a real stone, and a lego or wooden house glued to a rock, a sand pile with a house sitting on it, and an aquarium and a pitcher of water.

**Have you ever heard someone brag that they were really good at something? Did you believe them? What if I told you I was the best cook in the whole world, would you believe me? I brought some cookies today so I could prove to you that I am the best cook in the world. (pass the cookies out) Well, what do you think? Tell me the truth! (wait for response) So you're saying that just because I said I was the best cook doesn't mean it's true. I must admit to you that I tricked you with those horrible cookies. I left some ingredients out so they would be bad. Did you know that some people are tricked into thinking they are good and that they will be in God's kingdom but Jesus tells us something different!**

**In our Bible story today, we're going to learn about Parables, which are stories with hidden messages. Jesus told a lot of stories called parables and the one we are going to hear today is called the Wise and Foolish builders. Listen carefully and see if you can find the hidden meaning. There was a wise man that built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house but the house on the rock didn't fall because it was on a firm foundation. Then there was a foolish man who built his house on the sand. Then the rains came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house and the house fell down with a great crash. What does the story of the two houses mean to you? (wait for response) Jesus told us exactly what this story meant. Jesus wanted the people to know that everyone who just acts nice but doesn't trust in Him will not be in God's kingdom. The person who wants to do what is right and works and does what is right are Christians that will be in God's kingdom.**

---

**Get Set!**

---

**Bible Story cont.**

Remember earlier, when I said I was a great cook... did that make me a great cook? No! The same is true with some people. Some people say they are Christians and talk about God, but sometimes they don't go to church or serve God. They just act good sometimes and say religious things but they do not have faith in Jesus and do not work for Him. It is *like* they build their house on the sand or they are not firm in their belief in Jesus and they will not be in God's kingdom.

God wants us to build our lives on a firm foundation. That means we must listen to His teachings, obey and do what he wants us to and not be a fake. I have some rings here and I would like for you to tell me which ones are fake and which ones are true jewels. (wait for response) That was hard just like it may be hard to tell the difference between some people who are just good and a true Christian, but God knows. We have to help people think about where their life is headed and help them build their lives on a firm foundation, trusting in God. Does God want us to be a rock or sand? No! We can't be a rock or sand!

Let me show you what Jesus was saying. (place a pile of sand with a house on top in an aquarium, on the other side in the same aquarium place a house on a rock, dump water over both but really douse the house on the sand.) Jesus wants us to be firm in what you believe and live it don't be wishy- washy like sand. Stand up for what you believe in and always serve God!

**Go!****Cookie Bake****FOOD (BE SURE TO CHECK FOR FOOD ALLERGIES!)****Materials:** bowl, spoon, and cookie sheets, measuring utensils

1 cup soft butter or margarine

 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar       $\frac{3}{4}$  cup brown sugar      Mix thoroughly

2 eggs      1 teaspoon soda

1 teaspoon salt      1 teaspoon vanilla

2  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups flour      1-2 cups chocolate chips      Mix in with wet ingredients.

Drop by teaspoon about 2 inches apart onto a cookie sheet and bake 10-12 minutes.

**Quest Connection****Preparation:** Pre measure each ingredient and place in individual containers.**Procedure:**

**We're going to make a special treat today! I have the ingredients to make cookies. How many of you like cookies? Great! Since we all like cookies we must like everything that is in them. First we have some butter, let's taste it. (give each child a chance to taste each ingredient) Wow, that soda was yucky! I wonder how the cookies can taste so good when that soda and flour tastes so yucky? We must remember that God wants us to study the whole Bible and do as He says. We must build a life with God's goodness and trust in Him.**

**Close**

One of the things God wants us to do is share. So why don't we bag some of the cookies in a snack bag and share them with the elderly of our church?



**Go!****Stand Firm****GAME**

**Materials:** Prize wrapped in aluminum foil - one per student (I used brownies wrapped)

**Quest Connection**

**Procedure:** Have your students count off 1 / 2. Have the 1's stand against the wall. Give each of them a prize wrapped in foil and instruct them NOT to open it! Show that we must stand firm not matter what! We may think we're losing something today but we will gain eternal life in God's Kingdom!

**Now that all #1's are standing against the wall with a prize in your hand, I want you to take one GIANT step forward and place the prize as far as you can in front of you on the floor.** (wait for response). **Now step back to the wall and place your legs shoulder length apart with your heels against the wall. Whatever happens don't move your feet; you are to stand firm with their feet planted there!**

**#2's it is your turn to see if you can go steal their prize. When I count to three #1's try to protect your prize and #2's try to steal it. Remember #1's stand firm! 123! Don't anyone open the prize, because we're going to trade places and let you see how hard it is to stand firm sometimes!** (trade places and play again) **Now that everyone has had a chance to stand firm, I have enough prizes for each of you to have one. Let's open them and see what is inside!**

**Close**

**Was it hard to stand firm while someone was stealing your prize? We learned in our lesson today that Jesus want us to stand firm on what we believe in and not just talk it but walk it. Do you know what that means? We should be very firm in our belief and trust in God and always serve Him!**

**Go!****Fizzing Rocks****SCIENCE**

**Materials:** vinegar, clear glass container, eggshells, limestone or cement fragments, or chalk

**Quest Connection****Preparation:**

Fill a glass  $\frac{3}{4}$  with vinegar. Let it sit uncovered for several days so water will evaporate and leave behind a stronger vinegar solution. Several objects can be dropped into the vinegar and the acid will bubble and eventually dissolve the object. (Chalk is the quickest to dissolve but to dissolve a piece of limestone is impressive but will take up to a week or more depending on its size)

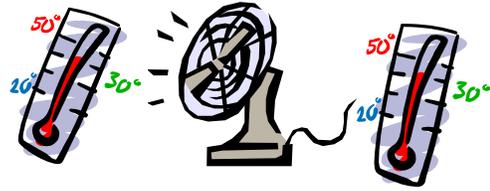
**Procedure:**

Today we've learned that we must build our lives on a firm foundation. What can you think of that is very firm or hard? Today we're going to learn that we must build our lives on God! We're going to take something very firm and place it in this vinegar and see what happens. It may take a little while but we will see this disappear! Will God ever disappear?

**Close**

In Habakkuk 3:6 compared with God, even the mountains are temporary. We will see how even hard objects, that we think are permanent objects do not last forever, only trusting in God does. God is forever! How can we build our lives on God? Listen to Bible stories, go to church, and obey your parents and always serve God!

**Go!**



## Temperature Change

### EXPERIEMENT

**Materials:** 2 glass thermometers, wet paper towel, and an electric fan

## Quest Connection

### Procedure:

Place two glass thermometers (the ones used outdoors with a small bulb at the bottom) on the table. Place a wet paper towel under the bulb of one. Have the thermometers side by side and show students they both have the same temperature. Turn the fan on and watch the temperature change.

**We're learning about building a firm foundation. In our story today we learned that as soon as the wind blew and the rain came one of the houses fell down. Today we have two thermometers (place them side by side). These are like two people going to church. They're both warm about \_\_\_\_ degrees. (Show students the thermometers have the same reading) In our story today Jesus talked about the rain coming. Let's place a paper towel under this thermometer and put a little rain on it. (Moisten the paper towel completely) Then the wind came (turn the fan on and aim it on the thermometer bulbs). What do you think happened? The thermometer that got a little wet is cooling off but the other thermometer is standing firm. People are the same way. Some can be tempted and will cool off and not stand firm for God while others will stay "hot" and stand firm for God.**

## Close

**Stand firm for God! Don't cool off when you are tempted. Stay on fire for the Lord!**

---

**Go!**

---

**Edible Play Dough**

**FOOD (BE SURE TO CHECK FOR FOOD ALLERGIES)**

**Materials:** 18 oz. jar of peanut butter, 6 Tbsp. honey, nonfat dry milk

---

**Quest Connection**

**Procedure:** Mix all ingredients, using dry milk until dough is no longer sticky. Shape into rock forms and pretend to stand on the rock using your fingers. Eat and enjoy.

---

**Close**

Review the Bible Story while students are playing with the dough.

---

**Go!**

---

**Funny Putty****ART**

**Materials:** white school glue, liquid laundry starch, food coloring.

---

**Quest Connection**

Depending on how many students you have will need to possibly double the recipe.

**Procedure:** Place 1 cup of glue in a bowl and stir in 1 teaspoon of food coloring. Stir in twice as much starch and begin mixing with your hands. Knead the putty until it is no longer sticky. Add more starch if needed or pour off any leftover starch. Store in a plastic bag. Pull and stretch and even copy pictures from the funny papers. Make sure no putty gets on the carpet!

---

**Close**

We need to mold our lives into what God wants us to be. This putty is silly and moves all around but we can copy pictures from the funny papers and see exactly what they are. We can be silly and have fun but we must stand firm on God's word!

# THIS MAN TRUSTED IN GOD

Print one of the following faces for each child and let them compare what a person who trusts in God looks like and a person who didn't trust in God. They will have fun showing the picture to others and it will be their way of telling others about God!

THIS MAN WISHED HE HAD



THIS MAN TRUSTED  
IN GOD

THIS MAN WISHED HE HAD



THIS MAN TRUSTED  
IN GOD

THIS MAN WISHED HE HAD



THIS MAN TRUSTED  
IN GOD

THIS MAN WISHED HE HAD



THIS MAN TRUSTED  
IN GOD

THIS MAN WISHED HE HAD



THIS MAN TRUSTED  
IN GOD

THIS MAN WISHED HE HAD



THIS MAN TRUSTED  
IN GOD

THIS MAN WISHED HE HAD



THIS MAN TRUSTED  
IN GOD

THIS MAN WISHED HE HAD



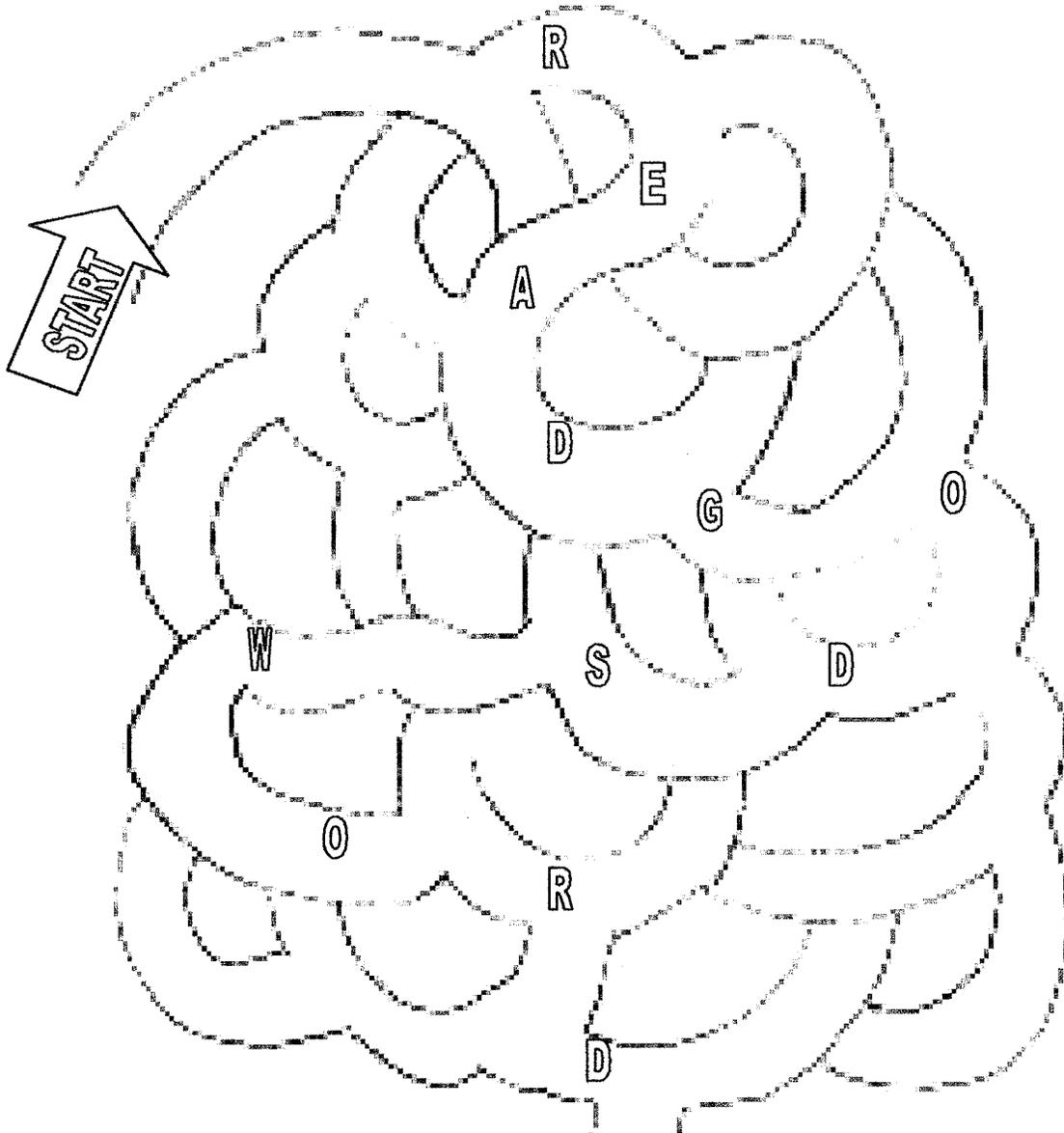
THIS MAN TRUSTED  
IN GOD

THIS MAN WISHED HE HAD



THIS MAN TRUSTED  
IN GOD

**Follow the maze and discover how we can build our lives on a firm foundation!**  
Pick up letters along the way. Print them, in order, on the blanks below the maze to find out what God wants us to do.



Grow On God's word!

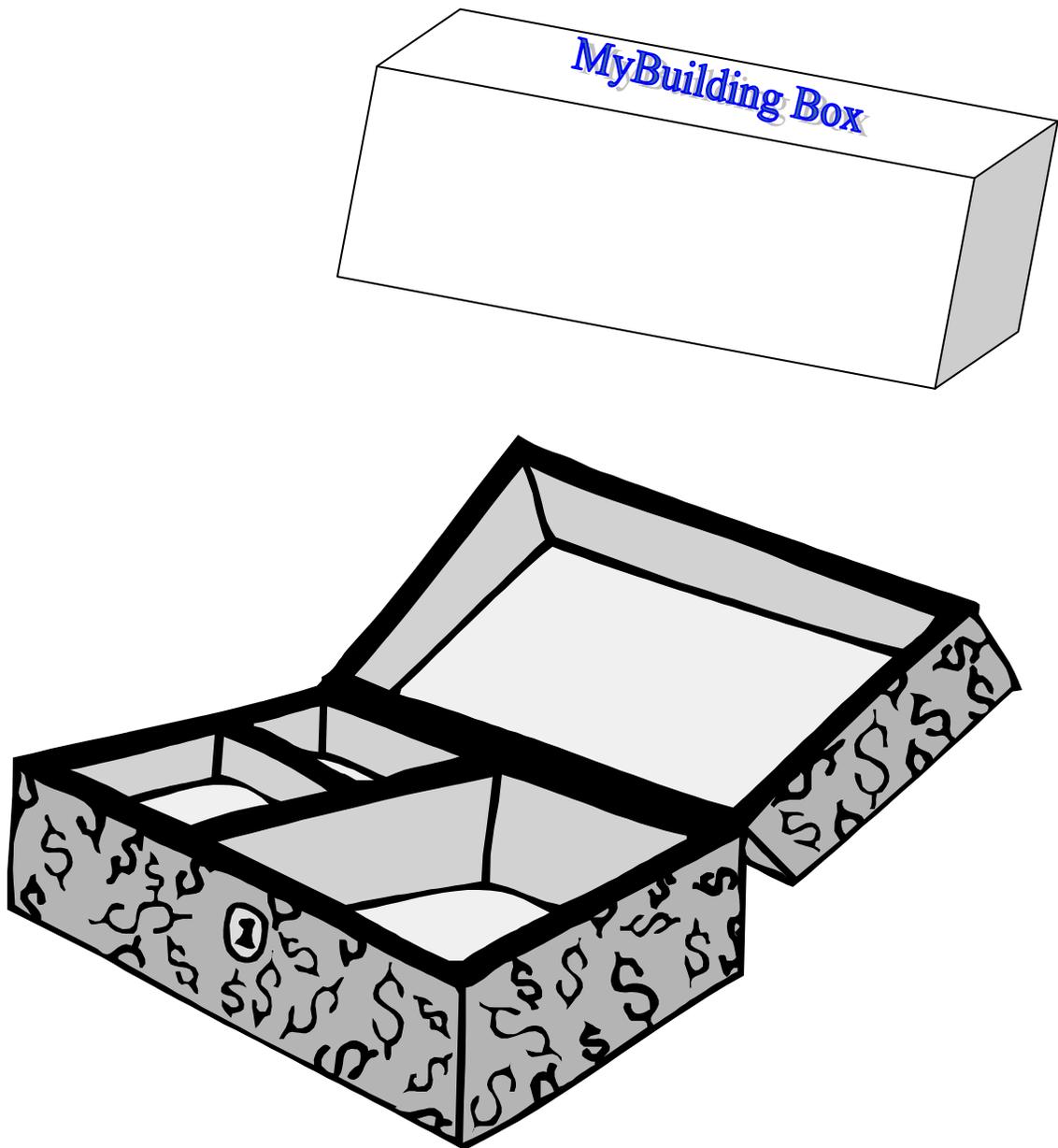
-----

## My Building Box

**Materials:** A school box, contact paper, felt marker, stickers, and index cards.

**Procedure:** Cover the school box with a plain contact paper. Let children decorate with markers and stickers. Each week have them write their memory verse on an index card. The index cards will help them build a strong foundation in God's word!

Each week take the cards out and remind them of God's message to them. At the end of the unit take your Building Box home. Encourage students to continue to check their building box for God's word.



Coloring Page

**I will build my house on a firm foundation!**

Find the foundation we are to build our lives on and color it white! Color the picture.

**Build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ and serve Him!**



Connect the dots and find what we should use to learn about God and how to build our lives on a firm foundation. Connect the dots with a red crayon and then add a dark black line on the outside of the red line you just connected the dots with. What do you have? God's word the Bible! Can you write the memory verse in this Bible?

**"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."  
Psalm 119:11**

