

Get Ready!

Firm Foundation

By: Rebecca Dauksas



Text

Matthew 7:24-29, The Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5-7

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Key Quest Verse

“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.” Matthew 7:24

Bible Background

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders is recorded in Matthew chapter seven as Jesus is finishing the sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:24-27). The sermon begins in chapter 5 and concludes at the end of chapter 7. In this ending parable, Christ is stressing the importance of putting His words into action in the Christian’s life. He includes a wealth of information for Christian living in these 3 chapters. As we read in chapter 5, He sees the crowds and the disciples come to Him. As was the Jewish custom for rabbis, He sat down to teach them. The location of the mountain is unknown, but it may be the sloping hillside located at the northwest corner of the Sea of Galilee. It is interesting to note that the law of Moses was also first received on a mountain (Ex. 19) and given to the Israelites. Here Christ gives the highest standards to living a moral and ethical life. He even gives a call for perfection to His followers (Matt. 5:48). Of course, living in this way could not be possible without the Spirit of God. As Christ taught in a later passage, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26).

It is thought that Matthew may have taken this sermon and expounded on it using the other teachings of Christ.

As recorded in chapter 4:23, we read that the ministry of Jesus had begun as He went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. His ministry was solid. He could teach from His knowledge of the scriptures. He preached the good news of the Kingdom, and He could prove that He was the Messiah through the healing ability given to Him by God. Now Christ gives the requirement to those who wish to follow Him. Hear these words of mine and put them into practice.

Get Ready!

Bible Background continued

Christ tells us that we are blessed if we hunger and thirst for righteousness because we will be filled (Matthew 5:6). “Blessed” is the joy that comes from God. We feel it inside and it does not have to do with our circumstances. We rejoice because we are Christ followers, we know that we are loved by God and because we will someday share in the coming Kingdom.

We should always hunger and thirst for what is right. Have you ever read a passage of the Bible and it made you have questions about other things in the Bible?

You may find that your hunger will grow as you go from one passage to another. Spend some time this week looking at the teachings of Christ in one of the first four books of the New Testament. Try applying His teachings to your life and see how God makes you feel “blessed” because you know, you are following Christ.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** Our behavior should be based on the teachings of Christ.**Feel:** Secure that the teachings of Christ can guide them through life.**Do:** Study the teachings of Jesus and put them into practice.**Leader's Devotion**

I love gardening. I should really say I love the results of gardening. Fresh fruits, vegetables and beautiful flowers are the greatest. Each year I go out to conquer another area of ground. I condition the soil and transplant my small plants with great hope that they will do well in their new surroundings. During my last class I began thinking that my students remind me of those plants. As teachers we are sowing seeds of knowledge, watering, feeding them and then God will bring the increase. We can not see into the future to how the lives of these young people will develop. We don't know who will live full lives for God doing great things for Him. We can not see the numerous lives that will be touched by those who are in our classrooms now. Although, one of the blessings of long-term youth work is seeing some of our students develop into Christian parents, teachers, pastors, youth workers . . . Our hope and prayer is that we give our students the foundation that they need to lead Christian lives. Of course, the greatest gift we can pass on to them will be empowering them with the ability to seek the Scriptures and develop a relationship with God. We will not always be with them, but God will guide them. He will reassure them over and over through His Word. They can open their Bibles and see the perfect example of Jesus. They have so many obstacles to overcome these days, but we know that the word of God contains the answers. As the Psalmist, David said, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word." (Psalm 119:9). We can help them find a stable faith in an unstable world, by building on the foundation of Christ and His teachings. How wonderful to think that some day our efforts will result in men and women with strong Christian character that show the love of God to others!

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Dry Erase or chalk board

Procedure: Let's say that we want to create an amusement park here in (your city).

What would we include in the park? Take lots of answers and write them on the board.

They may include roller coasters, water rides, theatres for shows, concession stands, shops, animals, games... But now remind the students that as park designers we need to include necessities that we may have overlooked. For instance, bathrooms, parking, employees department, electricity, a water system, groundskeepers, a first aid facility, security. . . **We need to include everything that will keep our visitors having fun while still providing them with comforts so they will enjoy their visit. It takes a lot of planning to develop a park. In the same way we need to have a master plan to follow to build our Christian lives. We can follow Christ's example and learn from His teachings. He lived a perfect life and He knows what we need to take care of the small as well as the big things in our lives. His teachings show us how to deal with materialism, marriage, prayer, relationships and a lot more. Christ taught others through everyday stories called parables. Let's see what He said in the Book of Matthew chapter 7.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Blueprints (borrow them from a builder in your congregation, you may have a set from your own home, a set from a building project at your church, or there are usually home plans in free home guides available at local markets or restaurants)

Builders use blue prints whenever they build a structure. The blue prints ensure proper measurements and the correct layout of the building. They enable the builder to see all the sections of the house so he can begin contacting labor, ordering materials, etc. The builder has to work in stages. When a home is started, a foundation has to be set in place. The builder has to make sure that everything is done according to the written specifications. In the New Testament Jesus spent much of His time with the people teaching them. These lessons were often given as parables. Parables are short stories which teach a moral lesson. Often parables use common items or every day occurrences to illustrate a significant point. In our story today Jesus uses the importance of building on the rock rather than sand. What does He mean by that? Let's look at Matthew 7:24.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

Materials: Dry Erase board with markers or chalk board with chalk

Today we want to look at a parable that Jesus gave to the people. Let's turn in our Bibles to Matthew 7:24-29 and read this parable. "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. [25] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. [26] But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. [27] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." [28] When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, [29] because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

What is Jesus explaining in this story? (That we must learn and put His teachings into practice to have a solid Christian life, etc.) We are to follow the teachings of Christ, but we can't follow them unless we know what they are.

This Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders is recorded as Jesus is finishing the sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:24-27). Those listening to Christ included His disciples and the crowds (v. 5:1;7:28). The sermon on the Mount was an opportunity for Jesus to teach the people how they could put their religion into action by living out the Laws of God. This sermon was not only for them, but it is included for us. In only 3 chapters of Scripture, Jesus gives us a challenge of practical, powerful rules and examples of Christian living and Christian character. We will list some of these on the board. (Have your students move through the Sermon on the Mount in their Bibles. As you cover topics, write headings on the board, for instance the Beatitudes— and then discuss what they are and how students might add actions/characteristics to their lives. A possible outline of topics and definitions is given below.)

The Beatitudes are introduced (5:3-12). These nine character traits give us guidance into the qualities that the true child of God will possess. The importance of Christians living in the world is explained (5:13-16). The importance and fulfillment of the Law and Prophets is endorsed (5:17-20) as Christ moves into what those Laws would be and how they can be lived out in life (5:21-47). We are challenged by Christ to strive for perfection (5:48). We are taught that humbleness and sincerity with God is what He requires of us. He explained how we must direct our actions and prayers to God -not for the admiration of other people (6:1-8). Jesus shows us how to pray in the example of the Lord's Prayer (6:9-13). He clarified how followers should show forgiveness, properly fast, and guard against materialism (6:14-24). Christ explains that we should seek the Kingdom of God and should not worry (6:25-34). He warns us about being judgmental against others (7:5). He shows us that we must be persistent as we interact with God asking Him for the good gifts that we need to lead a holy life (7:7-11). He also brings us the Golden Rule—

Get Set!



Bible Story

do to others what you would have them do to you (7:12). He explains that the gate and road that leads to life is narrow and few find it (7:13, 14). We are warned about false prophets which is a warning concerning those who would come saying they are bringing a message from God, but we are told to look at their fruit (the results of what they do for God). Do their actions result in good or bad fruit? (7:15-23). We are also given the requirement that we must meet to enter into the Kingdom. It is to do the will of our Father who is in heaven (7:21). How can we know or do God's will? (Reading our Bibles and doing what God says in the Scriptures. Praying for God's power, help and guidance to live a Christian life.)

Let's read Matthew 7:24 together. ("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.) **What two things are we required to do with the words of Christ?** (Hear them and Do them.) **What do you think the storms of verse 25 would be?**

How should we go about building our house on the rock of Christ's teachings?

Teacher's Note: You may want to explain that the term Kingdom of Heaven is only used in the gospel of Matthew. The term Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven can be used interchangeably. However, throughout the New Testament the term Kingdom of God is used 65 times.

Why does Matthew use the term Kingdom of Heaven? The capital city of the Kingdom of God is called New Jerusalem. (For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:10.)

You may want to review with your students when we will receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Christ states that He is coming soon and that He will give to everyone according to what He has done (Rev. 22:12). He is establishing the Kingdom of God when He returns. The arrival of the New Jerusalem will happen later. In Revelation 21:2 John states, "I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband." He saw the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ.

Go!

Parable Stones



ARTS AND 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 350-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.

Go!

My Daily Bread



DRAMA

Three characters (male or female)

Props: An apple, cracker, pudding snack pack (any snack foods will do), grocery bag, spoon, napkin, two chairs

Person 1: (talking to himself) Oh, I wish he would get here. I'm so hungry!

Person 2: Hi.

Person 1: What took you so long?

Person 2: (enters with food in a grocery bag or picnic basket) I saw a few friends in the parking lot. So are you hungry?

Person 1: I am starved. Hurry! Hurry!

Person 2: Ok, let me just get this food out that you asked me to pick up for you. (Both sit down. Person 1 ties napkin around his neck and begins to eat the food. Person 1 should really ham it up while he is eating the food. Make it funny. He is munching away when person 3 enters.)

Person 3: (enters) Hi guys. What are you doing?

Person 1: (Acts as if he is trying to speak but he can not because his mouth is full.)

Person 2: Well, you see he is really hungry because he has not eaten in a whole week.

Person 3: You mean he has not had anything to eat since you were here last week?

Person 1: (He tries to talk but his mouth is still full. He continues to eat what is in the bag.)

Person 2: You see he is so busy during the week that he doesn't have time to eat.

Person 3: What?

Person 2: Well there are other reasons too.

Person 3: Like what?

Person 2: Eating can be boring you know. And after all, he ate several times when he was younger, so why do it everyday? Right.

Person 3: I don't think those are very good reasons for eating just once a week. Doesn't that make you feel weak. (person 1 nods pathetically, looking at person 3, still eating) Doesn't it make your stomach growl and your head hurt. (person 1 nods again, holding head with one hand) I have an idea, instead of eating only once a week, why don't you eat a well-balanced diet with healthy food each day to satisfy your hunger? (person 1 stops eating)

Person 1: You mean I could eat whenever I am hungry? That would be great. I could also eat without having to hurry so much. You know it is tough trying to eat enough in one hour to last a whole week.

Person 3: I would think that it would be.

Person 2: Now that we have that settled let's enjoy a little spiritual food.

Person 3: Look at the time! Class is about to start. We better hurry.

Person 1: (characters begin exiting) I'm a little thirsty, too.

Person 3: Have I ever told you about living water?

Go!

Drama Activity continued

**Quest Connection**

In our skit we see someone trying to eat enough in one hour to last all week, but that is not how our digestive system works. In the same way, we need to have spiritual food everyday. It is great to attend church and we learn a lot when we do, but it is also important that we develop a routine that allows us to take in spiritual food during the week. We should fill our hearts and minds with things from God all week. Personal Bible study is really important. Listening to Christian music, being part of a Bible study group, listening to an audio Bible, watching Christian videos and having strong Christian friends are ways to keep us feeding on the things of God. Jesus told us that everyone who hears His words and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built His house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock (Matthew 7:24, 25). We know that everyone has to go through tough times in their lives – just like the storm, but if we have been feeding on God’s Word and living by following Christ we will be strong enough to make it through the rough times.

Close

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Go!



Firm Foundation

MUSIC

Materials: CD player with Firm Foundation written by Nancy Gordon and Jamie Harvill or Musician from your congregation and music for Firm Foundation
Worksheet Firm Foundation—Words and chords

Quest Connection

We may think that song writers are inspired, sit down and write great songs without any difficulties. This story tells us that sometimes great songs come from disappointments and changing our focus to what is truly important. The story behind the song:

A few years ago, Jamie Harvill and I co-wrote a country song called "Belle of the Ball." It was a beautiful song that affirmed the love between a father and his daughter. Suzy Luchsinger, Reba McEntire's sister, was a new recording artist with Integrity Music and was looking for new songs to record. When Suzy first heard this song, out came the Kleenex. Jamie and I were so excited that she was deeply touched by our song and we were hopeful that she might record it. But as we all know, things change and by the time Suzy went into the studio to record her album, our song was not included on the list.

The day that Jamie and I discovered our song didn't get recorded, we were very disappointed. Our hopes had been dashed. I remember reading my morning devotional the day before Jamie and I talked on the phone about our sad news. Somewhere in that devotional I read the phrase. . . "I have a living hope." I had a deep desire to sing those words to myself. While on the phone with Jamie, our conversation was like a "volleyball game of encouragement." We were both aware that we had misplaced our hope in a song and not in our God.

Through the ministry and gift of encouragement, Jamie and I actually talked ourselves into the song "Firm Foundation." Almost line for line we were exhorting one another to not be discouraged in the circumstances, but to put our hope in God's Holy Word. Most of the lyrics were written over the phone. Afterwards, we got together a couple of times to fine tune and tweak the song. I can still remember Jamie's wife, Brenda, commenting to us, "Well, country music didn't get a good song, but the church got a great one!"

It is truly amazing how a song can be carried in the Spirit to people and places we will never see or go. We are continually blessed by the stories we hear about the powerful encouragement "Firm Foundation" has been to people everywhere. We're forever grateful that we worked through our disappointment with the "living hope" of God's eternal word and we still celebrate the joy of having written this song.

By Nancy Gordon (Play or sing the song.)

Close

We pray that we will remember that You have given us Christ to lead us. You spoke to us through His words. Help us follow those words and put His teachings into practice in our lives. Please keep us on the Firm Foundation of You and our Lord Jesus. We love You. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Go!



Patient Rock Candy

FOOD/SCIENCE

Materials: Stove, pan, measuring cups, spoon, large canning jar, funnel, small plastic coffee lid (or pencil), string (about 7 inches-braided string works best), a washed metal nut (for weight), 1 plus 2/3 cups water, 5 cups sugar, dishcloth, patience (at least 7 days for rock formation)

Quest Connection

Procedure: Caution - Hot liquids are used in this activity

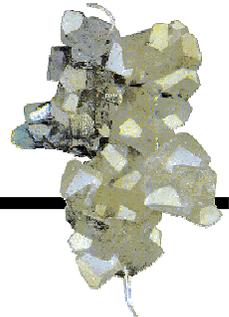
Heat the water in the pan till almost at a boil. Measure and pour in sugar. Stir till dissolved. Do not stir after sugar dissolves. Place a dishcloth on the counter where the jar will rest to cool. Punch a hole through a plastic coffee can lid. Tie the metal nut on one end of the string to act as a weight. Feed string through lid and measure the string. Do not let it touch the bottom of the jar. Tie the other end of the string when it is the appropriate length. (You can also use a pencil, if you do not have a coffee can lid.) Remove lid. Teacher, carefully pour the liquid into the jar using the funnel. Lay the lid over the jar so the string hangs down the middle of the liquid. In 7 days, lift out the string and (hopefully) it will be covered with sugar crystals!

Science/Making rock candy is an example of entropy decrease. Entropy is the theoretical measure of energy, as of steam, which cannot be transformed into mechanical work in a thermodynamic system. In this case, as the jar cools heat leaves it. So, by the second law of thermodynamics, the entropy of the solution goes down. This allows patterns to form inside the jar, and one observes this as crystals of sugar on the string.

The way to think about what happens is to think at the molecular level. The molecule surfaces are able to fit together. As the heat goes out, the molecules slow down and are able to stick together. Eventually they form a macroscopically visible crystal.

Connection: Making rock candy takes patience. We hear a lot about patience as a Christian. In fact patience is one of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22. Patience could be described as “How We Behave While We Wait for Something.”

Our behavior while we are waiting shows as our patience. Building on Christ’s words also takes patience. Some of His teachings may be easy to apply to our daily lives while others take time to develop.



Close

It will take a week for our crystals to appear. We will see the result of our experiment. Maybe the crystals will grow.

The important thing for us to remember is to build on the words of Christ.

It will take patience, but we want to see ourselves grow spiritual this week. Spend some time in the New Testament book of Matthew to read the important words of Christ and see how you can apply them to your life.

Go!**How to Build Your House****SEARCHING SCRIPTURES**

Materials: Bible and any of the Bible tools listed on the worksheet or Bible study helps that you personally use, “Searching Scripture Study Skills—How to Build Your House” worksheet - a copy for each student

Quest Connection

Daily Bible Study is essential in growing as a Christian. We need to know the words of Christ, understand their meaning and apply them to our lives. As students this may seem like a difficult task, but here a few things that may make it easier for you. So let’s start digging our foundation and building on the rock of the incredible Word of God!

Review the Searching Scripture Study Skills - “How to Build Your House Worksheet” as a class.

**Close**

Let’s read a verse together. It is **Matthew 13:13**. (This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.) **We don’t want to be like some of those in the crowds that heard the parables of Jesus, but never bothered to understand His teachings. We want to make sure that we understand what His teachings mean and put each one into action in our life. Matthew 13:15** describes the people that heard Christ as having calloused or hard hearts. We want to be open to the message of God that Christ spoke to us. Remember that the second part of **Matthew 13:15** says “that they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.” That is our prayer that we will see, hear, understand and be healed.

Go!**Righteous Readers****DAILY READING GUIDES**

Materials: Bible, copies of Daily Reading Guide Worksheet for each student

Quest Connection

There are so many good reasons to spend time in the Bible. We have found that it is the message from our Creator, it shows us the way we should live, it shows us who God is, it reveals the future to us, it tells us about the lives of some of the people of faith who lived before us, it reveals the success and failures of countless men and women, it states the rewards and punishments for our behavior, it shows us how to love God and others . . . There are so many great reasons to read God's Word. Even with these reasons, you may not know where to start or you may have found yourself covering passages several times and not reading some at all. Here is a tool that may help you.

Give a copy of "Righteous Readers" worksheet to each student. It is a Righteous Reader sheet. Just keep it in your Bible. When you finish a chapter then check it off the list. This way you will be able to measure the amount of the New Testament you are reading and you know that you are covering key passages.

Close

Our Key Quest Verse is Matthew 7:24. Let's read it together. ("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.") Review the verse and commit it to memory with students.

Prayer:

Lord,

Please help us to learn Your precious teachings and live the way You instruct us to. We pray that we increase our knowledge but more importantly we pray for perfect love for You and for others.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Righteous Readers

Name _____

You can read through the New Testament in a year, reading only one chapter each weekday. Remember that every verse you read brings you one step closer to the goal of knowing more of God's Word.

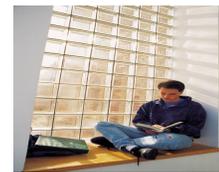
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 ثفا-- [Acts 22](#)
 ثفا-- [Acts 23](#)
 ثفا-- [Acts 24](#)
 ثفا-- [Acts 25](#)
 ثفا-- [Acts 26](#)
 ثفا-- [Acts 27](#)

ثفا-- [Acts 28](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 1](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 2](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 3](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 4](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 5](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 6](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 7](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 8](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 9](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 10](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 11](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 12](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 13](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 14](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 15](#)
 ثفا-- [Romans 16](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 1](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 2](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 3](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 4](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 5](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 6](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 7](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 8](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 9](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 10](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 11](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 12](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 13](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 14](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 15](#)
 ثفا-- [1 Corinthians 16](#)

I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. Do good to your servant, and I will live; I will obey your word. Psalm 119:16-17



Righteous Readers

- [2 Corinthians 1](#)
- [2 Corinthians 2](#)
- [2 Corinthians 3](#)
- [2 Corinthians 4](#)
- [2 Corinthians 5](#)
- [2 Corinthians 6](#)
- [2 Corinthians 7](#)
- [2 Corinthians 8](#)
- [2 Corinthians 9](#)
- [2 Corinthians 10](#)
- [2 Corinthians 11](#)
- [2 Corinthians 12](#)
- [2 Corinthians 13](#)
- [Galatians 1](#)
- [Galatians 2](#)
- [Galatians 3](#)
- [Galatians 4](#)
- [Galatians 5](#)
- [Galatians 6](#)
- [Ephesians 1](#)
- [Ephesians 2](#)
- [Ephesians 3](#)
- [Ephesians 4](#)
- [Ephesians 5](#)
- [Ephesians 6](#)
- [Philippians 1](#)
- [Philippians 2](#)
- [Philippians 3](#)
- [Philippians 4](#)
- [Colossians 1](#)
- [Colossians 2](#)
- [Colossians 3](#)
- [Colossians 4](#)
- [1 Thessalonians 1](#)
- [1 Thessalonians 2](#)
- [1 Thessalonians 3](#)
- [1 Thessalonians 4](#)
- [1 Thessalonians 5](#)
- [2 Thessalonians 1](#)
- [2 Thessalonians 2](#)
- [2 Thessalonians 3](#)
- [1 Timothy 1](#)
- [1 Timothy 2](#)

- [1 Timothy 3](#)
- [1 Timothy 4](#)
- [1 Timothy 5](#)
- [1 Timothy 6](#)
- [2 Timothy 1](#)
- [2 Timothy 2](#)
- [2 Timothy 3](#)
- [2 Timothy 4](#)
- [Titus 1](#)
- [Titus 2](#)
- [Titus 3](#)
- [Philemon 1](#)
- [Hebrews 1](#)
- [Hebrews 2](#)
- [Hebrews 3](#)
- [Hebrews 4](#)
- [Hebrews 5](#)
- [Hebrews 6](#)
- [Hebrews 7](#)
- [Hebrews 8](#)
- [Hebrews 9](#)
- [Hebrews 10](#)
- [Hebrews 11](#)
- [Hebrews 12](#)
- [Hebrews 13](#)
- [James 1](#)
- [James 2](#)
- [James 3](#)
- [James 4](#)
- [James 5](#)
- [1 Peter 1](#)
- [1 Peter 2](#)
- [1 Peter 3](#)
- [1 Peter 4](#)
- [1 Peter 5](#)
- [2 Peter 1](#)
- [2 Peter 2](#)
- [2 Peter 3](#)
- [1 John 1](#)
- [1 John 2](#)
- [1 John 3](#)
- [1 John 4](#)
- [1 John 5](#)
- [2 John 1](#)

- [3 John 1](#)
- [Jude 1](#)
- [Revelation 1](#)
- [Revelation 2](#)
- [Revelation 3](#)
- [Revelation 4](#)
- [Revelation 5](#)
- [Revelation 6](#)
- [Revelation 7](#)
- [Revelation 8](#)
- [Revelation 9](#)
- [Revelation 10](#)
- [Revelation 11](#)
- [Revelation 12](#)
- [Revelation 13](#)
- [Revelation 14](#)
- [Revelation 15](#)
- [Revelation 16](#)
- [Revelation 17](#)
- [Revelation 18](#)
- [Revelation 19](#)
- [Revelation 20](#)
- [Revelation 21](#)
- [Revelation 22](#)

Notes

*"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."
Matthew 7:24*

Rocks & Stones Bible Scavenger Hunt

There are lots of references to Rocks and Stones in the Bible. We want to find what part a few of these play in the Scriptures.

Divide into teams or fill out the information individually. Good Hunting!!!

1. Who used a stone for a pillow? Genesis 28:10, 11 _____

2. What action was Moses to do to the rock at Horeb? Exodus 17:6 _____
_____ Who saw this miracle? _____

3. What piece of furniture did a rock become for Moses? Exodus 17:12 _____

4. Who used their finger to write on stone tablets? Deut. 9:10 _____

5. How many stones did the shepherd boy choose from the stream? 1 Samuel 17:40
_____ What was his name? 1 Samuel 17:50 _____

6. What lady gave King Solomon precious stones in exchange to hear of his wisdom and about his God? 1 Kings 10:10 _____

7. Who is the Rock eternal? Isaiah 26:4 _____

8. What could God make out of stones? Luke 3:8 _____

9. According to John 10:32, who was the person the people were trying to stone to death?
_____ How did He get away? John 10:39 _____

10. New Jerusalem, the capital of the Kingdom of God, will be decorated with every kind of precious stone. What will the foundations be made of? Revelation 21:19, 20
 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____
 9. _____ 10. _____ 11. _____ 12. _____

Answer Key to Rocks & Stones Bible Scavenger Hunt

There are lots of references to Rocks and Stones in the Bible. We want to find what part a few of these play in the Scriptures.

Divide into teams or fill out the information individually. Good Hunting!!!
(Rock candy or pop rocks would be a good prize for those that complete the answers.)

1. Who used a stone for a pillow? Genesis 28:10, 11 Jacob

2. What action was Moses to do to the rock at Horeb? Exodus 17:6 Strike the Rock

Who saw this miracle? Elders (this can be a trick question the Lord and Moses, too. The people did come with them at that time.)

3. What piece of furniture did a rock become for Moses? Exodus 17:12 a chair

4. Who used their finger to write on stone tablets? Deut. 9:10 God

5. How many stones did the shepherd boy choose from the stream? 1 Samuel 17:40 5

What was his name? 1 Samuel 17:50 David

6. What lady gave King Solomon precious stones in exchange to hear of his wisdom and about his God? 1 Kings 10:10 queen of Sheba

7. Who is the Rock eternal? Isaiah 26:4 the Lord

8. What could God make out of stones? Luke 3:8 children for Abraham

9. What person were the people trying to kill by stoning him to death in John 10:32?

Jesus How did He get away? John 10:39 He escaped their grasp

10. New Jerusalem, the capital of the Kingdom of God, will be decorated with every kind of precious stone. What will the foundations be made of? Revelation 21:19, 20

1. jasper 2. sapphire 3. chalcedony 4. emerald

5. sardonyx 6. carnelian 7. chrysolite 8. beryl

9. topaz 10. chrysoprase 11. jacinth 12. amethyst

The identification of some of these precious stones is uncertain.

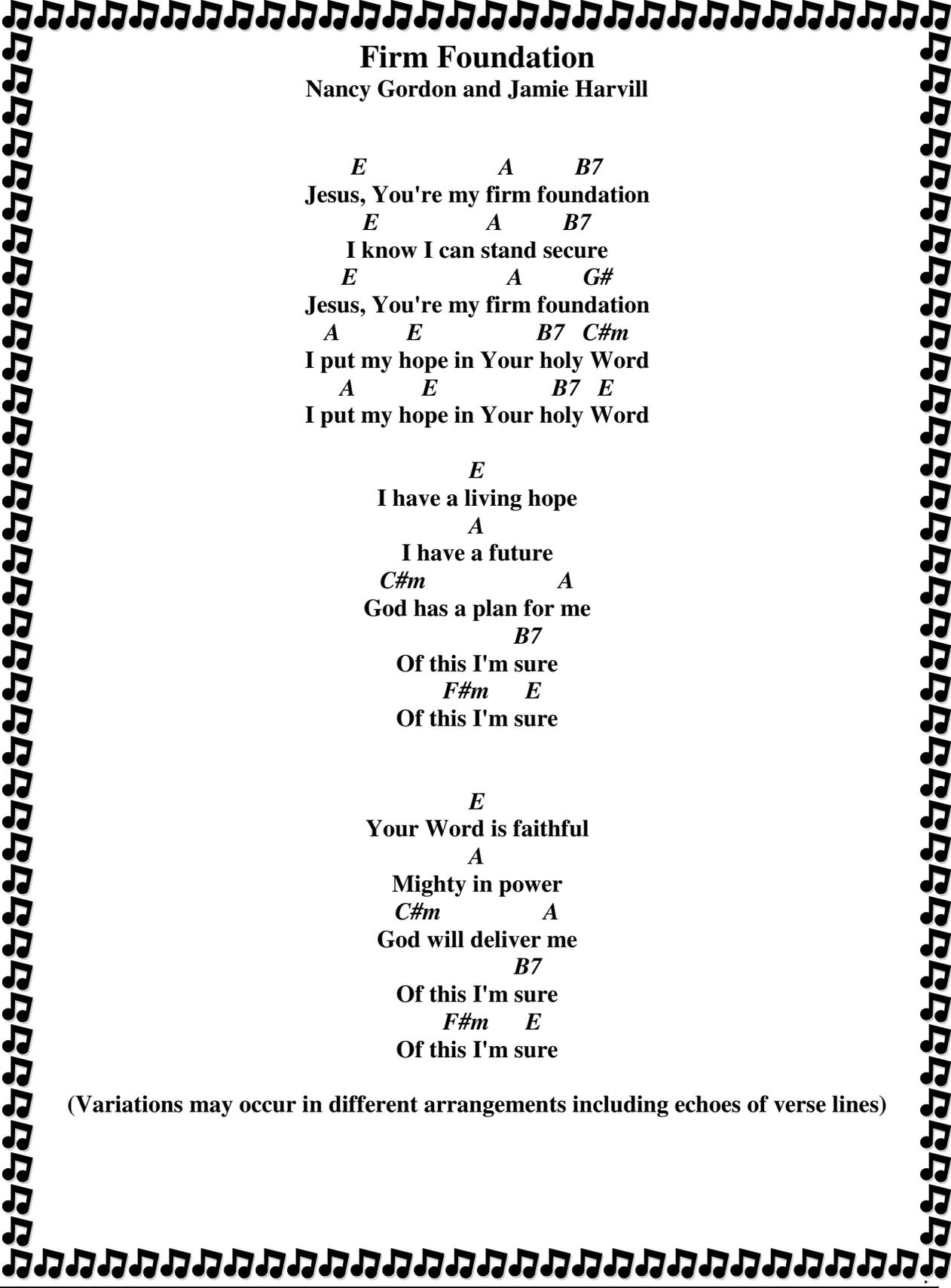
Searching Scripture Study Skills - How to Build Your House Worksheet



Here are a few practical tips that will help you understand the Bible and give you some tools that may help you build on the Rock of the Word.

1. An understandable version of the Bible is the place to start. The New American Standard Bible or the New International Bible are good translations. A Study Bible contains verse notes that are really helpful. It often lists cross references which are other verses that contain similar information. It also contains additional information on verses that give the reader a better understanding of what is being stated. While you read you may want to highlight important passages. Use different colors to symbolize different subjects. For instance, you might choose Pink – for Christian Living, Blue – for baptism, Yellow- the Second Coming of Christ, Green-the New Earth for the Kingdom of God. You may even find that writing notes in the margins helps you find important verses quickly or sums up the main topic of a passage of Scripture for you.
2. A Bible Dictionary can be helpful to understand the meaning of words. Let's say that you are reading, 1 Timothy 2:5 which states, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus". You could look up the definition of Mediator. Mediator - one who goes between two groups or persons to help them work out their differences and come to agreement. The dictionary can assist us in our understanding of certain words when we view them in their context. (Definition from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)
3. A computerized version of the Bible is great for word searches. You can locate verses by words or by references. It will also locate each time that words are used throughout the Scripture. It is a wonderful tool for Christian Education. You can also copy and paste verses into other documents. Several types are available on line or through your local Bible bookstore. (WORD search by NavPress Software) A concordance will also list all the references for words used in the Bible. A great resource is the Englishman's Greek Concordance.
4. You may also want to consult a commentary. Look up the reference to see what scholars think that passage may mean. Remember that sometimes their comments are based on church traditions and other standards. You want to develop your own opinion about a subject after comparing several verses in the Scriptures.
5. The Visual Bible is a set of videos that use word-for-word text from the NIV of the Bible in dramatization. The books of Matthew and Acts are available with others to follow. (The Visual Bible by Nelson Ministry Services).
6. Audio Bibles are complete versions of the Bible recorded on tapes and CDs. They are very helpful for those who wish to listen to the Bible. They also sell the New Testament and the Psalms separately. They are great for families that spend a large amount of time in the car.
7. Prayer is an important part of Bible Study. Ask God to speak to you from His Word. You are not just reading a good story, you are reading a message from Your Creator who loves you.

Some items may seem too costly for one person to purchase at one time, but they may be available to borrow from your local church library, city library, or could be borrowed from a member of your congregation. These are great things to purchase by saving your money through the year and adding them to your wish lists when you receive presents.



Firm Foundation

Nancy Gordon and Jamie Harvill

E *A* *B7*
Jesus, You're my firm foundation

E *A* *B7*
I know I can stand secure

E *A* *G#*
Jesus, You're my firm foundation

A *E* *B7* *C#m*
I put my hope in Your holy Word

A *E* *B7* *E*
I put my hope in Your holy Word

E
I have a living hope

A
I have a future
C#m *A*
God has a plan for me

B7
Of this I'm sure

F#m *E*
Of this I'm sure

E
Your Word is faithful

A
Mighty in power
C#m *A*
God will deliver me

B7
Of this I'm sure

F#m *E*
Of this I'm sure

(Variations may occur in different arrangements including echoes of verse lines)