

kidz CONNECTION - it's all about the GROWTH!,
(Grace, Relationships, Obedience, Walk of
Faithfulness, Talking with God, Heart for God and
Others)

Grace – Elementary

Second quarter – Grace Challenges Me!

Week thirteen – Sunday School

Scripture – Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49

Lesson – Two builders had to choose!

Verse – Ephesians 5:1,2

Opening - 20 minutes

- Music - 10 minutes
- Activity – 5 minutes –
 - Supplies –
 - Butcher paper – one sheet per child
 - Crayons/markers
 - Tape

Assign each small group a specific part of the lesson to prepare props for. If you have more than six small groups, assign more than one small group to a part of the lesson. If you have less than six small groups, combine parts or assign more than one part to each small group. Let the children know their small group will have a part in presenting the lesson to the rest of the class. Explain to each small group the props they need to prepare as follows –

1. Rain and flood waters – children will make “rain drops” and color strips of their paper blue for “flood waters”. During their part of the lesson, they will let their “rain drops fall” and then lift the ends of their “flood waters” to show the waters rose. You will need two small groups for this part – one group will be the rain and waters for the Wise Builder and the other will be the rain and waters for the Foolish Builder.
2. Rock/firm foundation – children will make “rocks” to place on the stage area as the firm foundation the Wise Builder built on.
3. House on the rock – children will color their panels to be the sides of the house. During their part of the lesson they will take their panels, stand behind the “rocks” in a circle and hold their panels in front of them to make the house the Wise Builder built. This house will stand firm in the storm.
4. Sand/no foundation – children will color their panels to be “sand” and will place their “sand” on the stage for the Foolish Builder to build on.
5. House on the sand - children will color their panels to be the sides of the house. During their part of the lesson they will take their panels, stand on the “sand” in a circle and hold their panels in front of them to make the house the Foolish Builder built. This house will fall down in the storm.

Explain when it is time for their Small Group to help, the children will walk into the stage area, place their props as instructed and then return to their seats.

Bible Lesson – 10 minutes

- Cast –
 - Narrator – any child who can read
 - Helper – any child who can read
 - Wise Builder (Andy or Andie) – any child who can read

- Foolish Builder (Danny or Dani) – any child who can read
- Rain/Flood Waters – Small Groups
- Rocks/Firm Foundation – Small Group
- House on the Rock – Small Group
- Sand/No Foundation – Small Group
- House on the Sand – Small Group

Narrator – Welcome to our presentation of “Choices Theater”! Today we are going to watch as two Builders make vital choices that will identify them as either “Wise Builders” or “Foolish Builders”.

Helper – Builders?!!! Awesome! Will they get to use really neat power tools? My dad has a power nailer, it is sooooo cool! The nails just shoot out of the nailer like that, (snap fingers) and your project is finished! It is so cool!

Narrator – Our Builders may use tools, but our lesson is not about tools.

Helper – It isn’t? Oh. You know it is important to use tools safely. Maybe we could look at lots of really cool tools and learn how to use them safely! That would be awesome!

Narrator – Yes, it is important to choose to use power tools safely, but our lesson is not about how to use tools. We are going to learn about the choices our Builders made and what they teach us about God’s Grace, so let’s get started! Allow me to tell you about our Builders. Our first builder’s name is Andy. Andy is a hard worker. He likes to pay attention to all the little details and do his best work.

Helper – Does he work all the time? What does he like to do for fun?

Narrator – Andy enjoys mountain climbing, rock climbing and swimming.

(Send in Andy)

Andy – What a great day this is! I’d sure love to go climb those rocks, but the weather man said it was going to rain and I need to finish the house before the storm hits. I’m so thankful for this nice piece of land I can build my home on! It has a great view of the mountains out that way and the ocean over this way. Let’s see . . . where should I build my home? I need a nice, flat, solid rock to build my house on.

Helper – Excuse me. Why don’t you build your house over there on that flat, sandy area? It would take a lot longer to build your house on

the rock because you'd have to haul all your tools and materials all the way up there.

Andy – Yes, the area on the beach would not take as long to build my house on, but this rock is a much stronger and firmer place to put the foundation for my home. I want my home to last and a firm foundation is vital for a strong home. You are right; it will take much more work to build my house on the rock, would you like to help me build my home?

Helper – It looks like it will take a lot of work to build your house on the rock, but I guess I could help.

Narrator – Our first builder, Andy, made his first choice. He chose to build on the strong, firm rock rather than on the sandy beach, even though it would take more work. Let's see what choice he makes next.

Andy – Thank you! Let's see . . . I found a great place to build my home, now, do I have all the tools and materials I'll need?

Helper – Tools?!!! Are you going to use cool tools like power nailers and power saws and . . .

Andy – Those are cool tools, but they are all “power” tools and we don't have any electricity at the building site. We will use just regular saws, hammers, bricks and mortar. Looks like we have everything we need, I think we're all ready! Let's start with laying our foundation. A firm foundation is essential for a strong, safe home. Let's use those big rocks over there. If we work together we can roll them over here for our foundation.

(Send in the Rock/Foundation Small Group, allow them a moment to place their “rocks” and then they may return to their seats)

Helper – Why don't we just build a foundation out of wood or use those branches over there for a foundation? These rocks are big and heavy.

Andy – Yes, they are big and heavy, but it is very important for us to use a solid and strong foundation, one that will last.

Narrator – Andy made his second choice – he chose to use rocks for the foundation to build his house on rather than sticks or branches, even though the rocks are much more work.

Andy – **There, that should do it! It did take a lot of work to build this foundation out of rocks, but this is a solid foundation and is the best place to build my home!**

Helper – **I'm beat! Let's take a break! How about if we go for a swim? I hear you like to swim!!!**

Andy – **Yes, I do enjoy a good swim, but if we stop now, we may not get my house finished before the storm hits. Look, over there in the distance. It looks like some dark clouds are heading this way. After the house is finished we should have time for a swim! A small break would be okay, though. Let's rest here for a moment and look over the plans for the house.**

Narrator – **Andy made another choice! He chose to finish the job rather than leave it only part way done.**

Andy – **Here's a hammer and a few nails for you and I have a hammer and nails, too. Let's get the walls up and the roof on!**

(Send in the House on the Rock Small Group and have them assemble their house)

Helper – **This sure is thick wood. It takes longer to nail wood this thick. Why don't we use a thinner wood? It would go together quicker.**

Andy – **Yes, thinner wood would go together more quickly, but this is solid wood and will make a stronger home! It will take longer to build this house, but it will be worth it!**

Narrator – **It looks like Andy made another choice. He chose to use strong building supplies.**

Andy – **There! Look! My house is finished! It is a good, solid house on a firm foundation. This house will last!**

Helper – **It does look solid! I know it is built firmly – my aching muscles sure tell me that!**

Andy – **Thank you for your help! Are you ready for that swim?!!! I'll race you to the beach!**

Narrator – **Well, our first Builder, Andy chose to build his house on a firm foundation of rock, use sturdy building supplies and to keep at it until the job was finished. Let's find out what choices our other**

Builder, Dani made. Allow me to introduce you to Dani. Dani enjoys playing charades and painting. Dani is very creative.

Helper – Dani sounds like she likes to have fun! Does she know how to build a house?

Narrator – We are about to find out! Let’s see what choices Dani makes.

(Send in Dani)

Dani – I need to build my house, but look at that sunrise! The colors! The light! It’s perfect! I must paint this sunrise!

Helper – Excuse me, I thought you were going to build your house.

Dani – Oh, hello! Yes, I’ll build my house, but first I have to paint the sunrise! Want to help?

Helper – Ah, sure, but didn’t the weather man say there was a storm heading this way? Maybe we could build your house first and paint later.

Dani – We’ll have plenty of time to build my house! This sunrise will be gone in moments – I must paint now!

Narrator – It looks like Dani made her first choice. She chose to paint first and build her house later.

Dani – This painting is perfect! I’ll put it in my new house! Oh yeah. I need to build my house first! Well, let’s see . . . where should I build my house?

Helper – What about over there, on that rock?

Dani – On that rock, waaay up there? No, no, no! I think this nice, smooth sandy place on the beach will work perfectly! I’ll be able to watch the sunrise every morning! Just think of all the pictures I’ll be able to paint! Plus, this sand is perfect for playing games like charades! Just think of all the great parties I can have here on the beach! I’m having a party tonight and I need my house to be ready, quickly! The area on the beach will not take as long to build my house on. I don’t want to waste time hauling everything all the way to a rock to build my house. If I build here on the beach, I can be completely finished in the time it would take to just carry all my supplies to the rock. Let’s get started!

Narrator – Dani has made another choice. She has decided to build her home on the sand instead of the firm rock.

(Send in the Sand/No foundation Small Group, have them place their “sandy area” on the floor and return to their seats)

Helper – Okay, if you say so. Where are the saws, hammers, nails and wood?

Dani – Saws? Hammers? Nails? Wood? I’m not going to use those things to build my home!

Helper – You’re not? Then what are you going to use to build your home?

Dani – I’m going to design the coolest looking beach house you’ve ever seen! I’m going to use natural things from my surroundings, like those branches and palm leaves! My house will look so totally cool!

Helper – Branches and palm leaves? They don’t sound very solid or firm. Maybe we should use wood instead.

Dani – Wood? No, no, no! I’m going to have lots of parties at my house and so my house has to look cool and fun! Speaking of parties . . . let’s take a break and practice playing charades for my party tonight!
(Make a few signs for charades)

Helper – Take a break and play charades? We haven’t even started building your house yet and look at those dark clouds – they look like they are headed this way.

Dani – Dark clouds? Where? Oh, I see. I suppose we could finish the house first. Relax, it won’t take long. All you have to do is put these palm leaves up here like this and then use these branches to make a roof and wa-lah! My house is finished! See! It is easy!

(Send in House on the Sand Small Group and have them set up the house)

Narrator – It looks like Dani has made another choice – she chose to use branches and palm leaves to build her house.

Helper – I feel rain. It looks like the storm is here!

Dani – I hope it doesn’t last long, my party is supposed to start soon! Let’s go inside my cool house to get out of the rain!

(Send it Rain/Flood water Small Groups – have one group gather around the House on the Sand Small Group and the other around the House on the Rock Small Group – allow them to gently throw their “rain”, blow like wind and “raise the flood waters” . . . when the house on the sand, falls, the rain/flood group around this house may return to their seats)

Helper – **We’re in your house, but I still feel the rain! It’s coming through your roof!**

Dani – **It’s not supposed to do that! Oh no! The wind is blowing, the water is rising and my house is starting to wobble!**

Helper – **That’s more than just a “wobble” – it’s going to fall down! Let’s get out of here!**

(Have House on the Sand Small Group make their “house” “fall down” and then return to their seats)

Dani – **My cool house is broken.**

Helper – **It’s more than broken, it’s completely demolished. I’m going to visit Andy. I bet his house isn’t going to crash down in this storm!**

Andy – **Hello! What are you doing out in the storm? Come in, come in! It is nice and dry here in my house!**

(Have Rain/Flood Small group and House on the Rock Small Group stand for a moment and then return to their seats when Andy says, “Let’s go rock climbing”)

Helper – **You are right! It is nice and dry in your house. It took a lot more work to build your house, but it was definitely worth it!**

Andy – **It is always worth it to build on the firm rock! Look! The storm is blowing over! Let’s go rock climbing!**

Narrator – **Jesus had been teaching people about God’s Grace and how God wanted them to live. He told the people, “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who builds 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. 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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Just like our Builders had choices to make, we also have choices to make in our lives. If we choose to accept**

God's Grace and listen to Jesus, our Rock, then when sad, scary or difficult times come to our lives, we will be strong and firm on Jesus, our Rock. If we choose to not listen to Jesus and do things our own way, we won't have a strong, firm foundation, to turn to when sad, scary or difficult times come to our lives. We can choose wisely or foolishly. It is up to us to choose.

Thank children for participating and close in prayer – **Thank You God for making Your Grace available to us! Thank you when we choose to accept Your Grace and build our lives on Jesus, we can have a firm, strong and safe foundation! Thank You for Your love for us, we love You, too! Amen!**

Dismiss children to their small groups for Small Group Time.

Small group time - 25 minutes

- Catch up/greet visitors/pray
- work through application flyer
- choose activity to do for coming week
- work on memory verse

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Grace - Elementary

Second quarter – Grace Challenges Me!

Week thirteen – Optional Second Service

Scripture – Psalm 119:33-42

Lesson – Two builders had to choose!

Verse – Ephesians 5:1,2

Opening

- Music
- Verse – Ephesians 5:1,2 – /Be imitators of God,/ therefore, /as dearly loved children /and live/ a life of love,/ just as Christ loved us /and gave himself /up for us /as a fragrant offering/ and sacrifice to God.

- Game – **Cotton Ball Relay!**
 - Supplies –
 - Cotton Balls – one per team
 - Plastic spoons – one per child
 - Directions -
 - Place half of a team’s children on one side of the room and the other half on the opposite side.
 - Give cotton ball to the first child on each team. This child will race with the cotton ball on their spoon, across the room and carefully, using only the spoon, will transfer the cotton ball to their teammate’s spoon so they can race back across the room, pass off the cotton ball to the next child in line. This continues until all children have run, passing the cotton ball.
 - When a child is racing, if they drop their cotton ball, they return to where they started, place the cotton ball on their spoon and try again to cross the room.
 - When a child successfully crosses the room and passes their cotton ball, they sit down.
 - The first team to successfully have all their team members cross the room and pass the cotton ball will say their verse and each team member will tell one way to show God’s love to others
 - Other teams will finish completing, saying their verse and how to show God’s love.
 - When all teams have had a chance to do this, they may play again – if you have time.

Bible lesson

- Supplies –
 - Diaper disposal bag – one eight foot length per small group or group of two small groups . . . check your church nursery, you probably have these special trash bags for their diaper disposal system, but be sure you have permission to take them

Greet children and gather them in sharing circles (sitting knee to knee with the others in their small group).

Say – **The Builders in our lesson today had choices to make. One made wise choices and the other made foolish choices. Jesus said the people who listen to Him and chose to follow His Words, are like the wise builder. We can be like the wise builder and choose to listen to Jesus and follow His Words! Let’s try a little experiment to see how well we listen and follow directions. In your groups, see if you can figure out how to blow up your “tube”. (Allow groups a moment to see if they can do it. Some may succeed by blowing and blowing until their tube is blown up)**

Ask – **Was it easy or hard to blow up your tubes?** (Allow groups to respond)

Ask – **Did it take a lot of “blowing” to blow up your tubes?** (Allow groups to respond)

Say – **I can tell you how to blow your tubes up with just one “puff” of air.**

Ask – **Who believes I can do this?** (Allow groups to respond and any who believe you may send one person to hear what to do. Have that person return to their group and show everyone else what to do – tie one end shut with a knot, hold other end about 10 to 12 inches away from your mouth and blow one long breath into the tube, quickly hold open end shut then tie a knot to close the end. Give groups a few moments to try this)

Say – **If you listened to my directions and followed them, you would be able to inflate your tube with one “puff” of air. If we choose to listen to Jesus’ Words in the Bible and do what He says, we will be like the wise builder and be solidly grounded in Jesus! I want to know what God’s Word says!** (Read Psalm 119:33-42)

Say - **Let’s take a closer look and see what these verses in Psalm 119 tell us. Verse 33 tells us we do not have to try and figure out for ourselves what God wants us to do. If we ask, He will teach us so we will know how to follow Him! In your group, starting with your Small Group Leader, pray this verse to God, “Please teach me, Dear Lord, to follow Your Word!”** (Allow groups a few moments to do this)

Say – **God wants us to listen to His Words. He also wants us to understand what they mean and how to live them in our everyday lives. Jesus said the people who listen to His Words and live them are wise. In Psalm 119:34 it tells us to ask God to help us understand His Word so we can obey it with all our heart! Starting with your Small Group Leader, pray this verse for the person on your right, “Dear Lord, please help ____ understand Your Word so he/she will live it in his/her everyday life!”** (Allow groups a few moments to do this)

Ask – **Who do you think was happier with their choices, the wise builder or the foolish builder?** (Allow children to respond)

Say – **Verse 36 tells us when we follow God’s commands we will find delight! Listening to and following God’s Word will make us happy and give us joy! Starting with your Small Group Leader and then continuing around your group, pray this verse for the person on your left, “Dear Lord, please show ___ how to follow Your Word and find joy!”** (Allow groups a few moments to do this)

Ask - **What difference does it make that you understand how important it is to listen to and follow God’s Word? Talk about this in your small group.** (Allow groups a few moments to do this)

Say - **I’d like to know what you talked about. Who will share what their group talked about with the rest of us?** (Allow a child from each group to briefly share what they talked about)

Ask – **How will deciding to listen to and follow God’s Word affect how you live your life this week? Talk about this in your group.** (Allow groups a few moments to do this)

Say – **I’d like to know what you talked about. Who will share how this affects your everyday life?** (Allow a child from each group to briefly share what they talked about)

Say – **When we choose to listen to God’s Word and do as it says, we are making wise choices that will bring us joy! Small Group Leaders, go around your circle and pray the following from Psalm 119 for each child in your group, by name, “Dear Lord, please help _____ enjoy Your unfailing love and trust in Your Word!”** (Allow groups a few moments to do this, and then when they have all finished, close in prayer.)

Extra time craft –

Supplies –

- Tall, glass baby food jars with lids – one per child
- 4 four pound boxes of Epsom salts
- 8 pounds of Sea Salt
- 1 teaspoon glycerin, divided
- Red food coloring – 10 drops
- Blue food coloring

- Lavender essential oil – 12 drops
- Rose essential oil – 12 drops
- Four large bowls
- Four large mixing spoons
- Mailing label – one per child
- markers

- Directions –
 - Combine your small groups into four groups and give each group a large bowl and spoon
 - Give each group a box of Epsom salt and have them pour it into their bowl
 - Allow each group to add three cups of Sea Salt to their bowl and mix well
 - Have each group add ¼ teaspoon of glycerin, five or six drops of either rose oil and five or six drops of red food coloring or lavender oil and four drops of blue food coloring and four drops of red food coloring (two groups use rose oil and red food coloring and two use lavender oil and red and blue food coloring) and mix carefully
 - Allow a rose and lavender groups to share with each other and layer rose salts, then lavender salts in each child's jar
 - Place lid firmly on jars
 - Allow children to write an encouraging note on their label and stick on their jar.

Say – **You did a great job of listening and following my directions to make jars of rose and lavender bath salts. Think of someone you know who would be encouraged if you gave them your jar of salts and then make time this week to give them the bath salts you made.**

If you have extra time – play your memory verse game again.