

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

Grace – Preschool/Early 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

Opening - 20 minutes

- Music - 10 minutes
- Activity – 5 minutes –

Supplies –

- Crepe paper streamers – six ten inch lengths per child
- Scrap paper – ½ sheet per child
- Blue, clear plastic wrap – one piece per child
- String or yarn – one six inch length per child

Directions –

- Show children how to place their piece of plastic wrap spread out in front of them
- Show children how to find the middle of each of their pieces of crepe paper and place them, one on top of the next, in the middle of their plastic wrap so the ends extend beyond each side of the wrap
- Show children how to wad up their scrap paper into a ball and place that in the middle of their crepe paper streamers
- Help children gather the plastic wrap around the crepe paper and scrap paper ball and tie the string/yarn below the ball to make a “comet” or “rain drop”

Assign each small group a specific part of the lesson to practice motions for. If you have more than five small groups, assign more than one small group to a motion. If you have less than five small groups, combine motions or assign more than one motion 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 motion they need to practice so they can teach the other children what to do –

1. Rain and flood waters – children will use their “rain drops” during the rain storm - they will let their “rain drops fall”, blow like “wind” and wave their arms and hands up and down like “waves” to show the waters rose.
2. Rock/firm foundation – children will make fists and “pound” one fist on top of their other fist to show the firm foundation the Wise Builder built on.
3. House on the rock – children will hold their arms above their heads with their fingers touching to make a “roof” for the house on the rock. This house will stand firm in the storm.
4. Sand/no foundation – children will place their hands in front of themselves, palms down, one on top of the other. They will then move their hands, palm down, each to their side to show flat “sand”.
5. House on the sand - children will hold their arms above their heads with their fingers touching to make a “roof” for the house on the sand. This house will fall down in the storm so the children will also fall down.

Explain when it is time for their Small Group to help, the children will show the others how to do their motion. Let each group practice.

Bible Lesson – 10 minutes

Say – **We have been learning for several weeks about people in the Bible who either chose to accept Jesus' Grace and follow Him, or chose to do what they wanted and not follow Jesus. Today we are going to find out about two builders who made choices – some were wise choices and others were foolish choices. I will need your help with our lesson today. You have all practiced your parts – are you ready for our lesson to start? Let's begin! Jesus was teaching people and told them if they were wise they would not only listen to what He said, but they would also do the things He said. Jesus wanted the people to understand what He was saying, so He told them a story about two builders. You all can be our builders!**

Ask – **What kind of things do builders do?** (Allow children to respond)

Say – **There are lots of kinds of builders. Some builders build roads. Let's pretend like we are driving cars on a road a builder built! Ready? Let's go!** (Briefly “zoom” around the room with the children “driving” cars)

Say - **Some builders build barns. What are some sounds animals make that live in barns built by builders?** (Allow a few moments for children to make sounds, identify the animals, and possibly move like the animals)

Say - **Some builders build boats. Let's row our boat built by a builder!**
(Take a moment to “row” with the children in their “boat”)

Say - **Our builders were building houses. The first thing our builders had to do to build their houses was decide where they would build. Let's look for a place to build our houses.** (Walk around the room and look for a place to build)

Say – **One builder found a place with a firm, solid, rock ground and thought it would be a good place to build his house. I need our Rock/Firm Foundation Small Group to come and teach the rest of us their motion for our lesson.** (Allow Rock/Firm Foundation Small Group to teach the class their motion)

Say – **Thank you! Our other builder kept looking and finally found a sandy place he thought would be a good place to build his house. I need our Sand/No Foundation Small Group to come and teach the rest of**

us their motion for our lesson. (Allow Rock/Firm Foundation Small Group to teach the class their motion)

Ask – **Thank you! So our two builders have each chosen a place to build their houses. What do you think our builders had to do next?** (Allow children to respond – give hints for “build their houses” if the children don’t think of this themselves)

Ask – **Exactly! They had to build their houses. You are our builders, let’s build our houses! What do we have to do to build our houses?** (Allow children to respond and when they tell you things to do, take a moment and lead children in acting each activity out. For example, when they say, “hammer the nails” and “cut the wood”, act like you are hammering nails or cutting wood, etc.)

Say – **You are all great builders! I need our House on the Rock Small Group to come up and teach us the motion for their part of our lesson.** (Allow children to come and show the others how to do the motion for house on the rock. Have them continue to stand next to you)

Say – **Well done! Now, I need you to stay here as our house on the rock and I need our Rain/Flood Waters Small Group to come up next to me.** (Allow group to stand next to you)

Say – **I need our rain and flood waters group to show the rest of you how to be rain and flood waters.** (Allow a moment for them to do this)

Say – **Let’s all do the rain motions together. Ready?!! The rain came down! The winds blew! The flood waters rose, but the house on the Rock stood firm! Well done Rain and Flood Waters Small Group! Well done House on the Rock Small Group! House on the Rock Small Group, you may return to your seats. Rain Small Group, please stay here by me for a few moments. I need our House on the Sand Small Group to come up and teach us the motion for their part of our lesson.** (Allow children to come and show the others how to do the motion for house on the sand. Have them continue to stand next to you)

Say - **Let’s all do the rain motions together again. Ready?!! The rain came down! The winds blew! The flood waters rose, and the house on the Sand fell flat! Well done Rain and Flood Waters Small Group! Well done House on the Sand Small Group! You may all return to your seats.**

Say – **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 and follow Jesus, our Rock, then when sad, scary or hard times come to our lives, we will be strong and safe with Jesus, our Rock. If we choose to not listen to Jesus and do things our own way, we won’t have a strong, safe foundation, to turn to when sad, scary or hard 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 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 - 15 minutes

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

Final Application Activity – 10 minutes

Supplies –

- Small paper plates – one per child
- Graham Cracker Squares – seven per child
- Marshmallow Fluff – a small scoop per child
- Plastic spoon – one per child
- Moist towels

Directions –

- Show children how to place one cracker square on their plate, add some marshmallow fluff and then use four more crackers to build walls and final two crackers to make a roof

- Let children use their spoons to spread marshmallow fluff to hold their cracker house together
- Use moist towels to wash sticky fingers

Say – **The builders in Jesus’ story had to choose if they were going to build on a good foundation or not. We have to choose if we will listen to and obey Jesus and accept His Grace. When we do that, we are building on a good foundation – Jesus!**

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Grace – Preschool/Early 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

Opening

- Music
- Verse – Ephesians 5:1 – /Be imitators of God,/ therefore, /as dearly loved children.
- Game – **Love Roll!**
 - Supplies –
 - Empty 2-liter pop bottles – five per team
 - Rubber ball – one per team
 - Directions –
 - Set up pop bottles at one end of the room
 - Allow children to stand approx. six feet from their team's bottles and roll the ball toward the bottles
 - If a child knocks over even one bottle, they go set it back up and tell a way they can show God's love to others
 - Continue allowing children to roll the ball, knock down bottles, set them back up and tell a way they show love
 - When all children on a team have had a turn, the entire team may say their verse.
 - 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 – **Today you learned about two builders and the choices they made. I know a song about these builders! Do any of you know a song about our builders?** (Allow children to respond)

Say – **That's right! The Wise Man and the Foolish Man. Let's sing it together!** (Lead children in singing the song)

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 choose 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 see what some verses in**

Psalm 119 tell us about following Jesus. 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! Let's play a game of "Follow Your Leader"! You will each follow your own Small Group Leader around the room. Each Small Group Leader will tell the children in their group how to follow them and then you will follow your leader for five steps and then the next person in your group will lead for five steps and then the next person will do the same until all of you have had a chance to lead and follow. When everyone has led, return to your seats. (Allow groups a few moments to do this)

Ask – Did you have fun following your leader and being the leader? (Allow children to briefly respond)

Say – Following the leader is a fun thing to play. It is also a wonderful thing to follow God because we can always know what He wants us to do! If we ask Him to teach us how to follow Him, He will do that! In your small groups, 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)

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 happiness! Listening to and following God's Word will make us happy and give us joy! Let's sing a song together about the joy God gives us when we follow Him! (Lead your children in singing, "I Have the Joy!)

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 and choose to follow Your Word!" (Allow groups a few moments to do this, and then when they have all finished, close in prayer.)

Extra time craft –

Supplies –

- Two sided tape

- White paper
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Empty small powdered laundry soap boxes – one or two per child

Directions –

- Help children cut white paper to cover each side of their soap box
- Show children how to use two-sided tape to fasten the paper to the sides of their boxes
- Ask children to color pictures of things they can do to follow Jesus and be a wise builder
- Ask children to draw a picture on one side of their box that shows how they will look when they listen to and follow Jesus and are wise builders!

Say – **We can choose to listen to Jesus and follow Him every day! When we obey our parents, share with our sisters, brothers and friends and help others we are following Jesus and are being wise builders! We will keep our blocks we are making in our classroom so we can play with them when we come to church. Thank you for working so hard to build and make these wonderful blocks for us to play with at church!**

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