



Talk 8

Wise or Foolish? (Matthew 7:24-29)



Big Idea

Jesus is the only sure foundation to build our lives on.



Faith in Kids looks like

Children who do what Jesus says because they know it's the best way to live.

You will need: A table, 2 large plastic containers (they need to be shallow or have clear sides), bricks, sand, 2 Lego/toy houses, 2 large sheets of paper with 'wise' and 'foolish' written on them, Blu Tack, a Bible, 2 jugs of water, bunch of keys, backpack and a marker pen.

Set up in advance: Place the 2 large plastic containers on the table. Pile up some bricks in one (making a stable base) and sand in the other. Attach Blu Tack to the bottom of the house that will sit on the bricks. Stick the 'wise' and 'foolish' sheets of paper up so they can be written on (if possible place them behind the corresponding containers). Place the jugs of water on the table.

Powerpoint slides: A picture of a sandcastle, a picture of a sandcastle being washed away by a wave, two talk points.

Space for notes

(Show slide of a sandcastle.)

Have you ever built a sandcastle? What happens if you build it too close to the water? **(Take answers.)**

(Show slide of a sandcastle washed away by a wave.)

When the wave comes, the sandcastle gets flattened!

Today's story is about what we need to build our lives

Space for notes

on. Jesus told a story called a parable. Does anyone know what a parable is? **(Take answers.)**

A parable is a story that Jesus made up to teach important things about himself. He told the parable to teach us about what we need to build our lives on - him. Maybe it sounds strange to say we must build our lives on a person. Jesus explained it by telling a parable about 2 builders.

Jesus said, *'The wise man built his house on rock.'*

(Place one house on the bricks.)

'The foolish man built his house on sand.'

(Place the other house on the sand.)

The difference was the foundation - what the house was built on.

One built on rock - a hard, heavy and solid foundation.

The other one built on sand - a soft, light and flimsy foundation.

The foundation of a house really matters - it's what keeps it standing and safe. Just like the foundation of our lives really matters. A good foundation will keep us safe - a bad foundation won't. That's why Jesus told the parable - so we know what to build our lives on. He says there's a wise way to live and a foolish way. Let's hear about the wise way first...

1. Wise way of life: hear and do what Jesus says

(Slide of talk point)

Jesus said, *'Everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them is like a wise man. The wise man built his house on rock.'* (Matthew 7:24)

The wise man knew that his house needed a solid



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foundation – rock. In the story, a storm came.

'It rained hard and the water rose. The winds blew and hit that house. (Pour water over the house built on the bricks.)

But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock.' (Matthew 7:24–25)

Even though rain poured from the sky, the rivers got fuller and higher and the wind blew hard against the house – it didn't move an inch. The rock made all the difference. It was strong – it kept the man *safe* in the storm.

Jesus told this parable because a storm is coming. It's a picture of the day that Jesus will come back. That day he will judge every person who has ever lived – including us. We don't know when it will happen. It may not happen until after we have died. But, the Bible says it will happen and what God says is true. Jesus will judge all of us for how we treated him while we were alive. That's why it's so important to build our lives on Jesus – it's the only way to be safe when he comes back. That's the wise way to live.

Maybe you're wondering what it means to build our lives on Jesus. He said the wise person hears his words and does what he says. **(Write 'hear and do what Jesus says' on the 'wise' sheet of paper.)**

We 'hear' what Jesus says when we read the Bible. **(Hold up a bible.)**

Jesus is God and the Bible is God's word. The Bible tells us how to live Jesus' way. He knows and loves us better than anyone else can. He really does know the best way for us to live. So it's worth hearing and doing what he says.

Imagine if your adult at home said, 'Don't forget your keys **(hold up the keys)** to the house tomorrow. I'll be home late so if you don't have them you will be locked out. Go and

Space for notes

put them in your bag now!' **(Put the keys in a backpack.)**

Hearing and doing what they said meant you had keys to get inside the next day **(hold up the keys)**. You didn't get locked out, instead you could go inside where it's warm and safe.

It's the same if we hear and do what Jesus says. He tells us how to live because he knows what is best for us. Hearing and doing what he says gives us a good and strong foundation. And when he returns, we will be safe – we will be protected from the storm. Jesus will look after us because we've trusted him.

Jesus also tells us about the foolish way to live. It doesn't end well for that person. It's a warning. And he tells us about that way of life so we will avoid it.

2. Foolish way of life: hear and ignore what Jesus says

(Slide of talk point)

Jesus tells us about the foolish person. He said, *'But the person who hears the things I teach and does not obey them is like a foolish man.'* (Matthew 7:26)

The fool built his house on the sand. Then, one day, the storm came.

'It rained hard, the water rose, and the winds blew and hit that house.' (Matthew 7:27)

(Pour a small amount of water over the house on the sand.)

Maybe he felt safe when the storm came because he had a roof over his head and walls around him. He was protected from the rain and the wind.

(Pour water over the house until the sand washes away.)

Until...CRASH! The house fell down. →

Space for notes

When the sand was washed away the house went with it. Everything was destroyed.

The foolish man built his house on a bad foundation – he wasn't safe. If we hear Jesus but don't do what he says then we are foolish. We're building on a shaky foundation – like sand. We won't be safe when Jesus comes back.

Let's imagine again that your adult at home said, 'Don't forget your keys (**hold up the keys**) to the house tomorrow. I'll be home late so if you don't have them you will be locked out. Go and put them in your bag now.' (**Put the keys on the table.**)

But this time you heard them but didn't do what they said. You carried on with your computer game or reading your book and didn't put your keys in your bag. The next day, you can't get into the house (**pretend to look for the keys in the backpack**).

You're locked out. It's dark and cold and you have no snacks, no comfy couch and no warmth.

If we don't hear and do what Jesus says then one day we'll find ourselves locked out of God's family. Maybe you hear Jesus' words here at Dangerous Club, at church or even in RE and you think some of it is interesting. Maybe you learn Bible facts off by heart. But you don't do what Jesus says. You hear but you ignore what he says. (**Write 'hear but ignore what Jesus says' on the 'foolish' sheet of paper.**)

Jesus says that's foolish. When he returns, he won't look after us because we didn't trust him. He calls us to follow him, to trust him and have him as our king. But if we say, 'no' to him and his ways then we're on our own. And when he comes back, we won't be protected by him. It will end in disaster – like building on sand.

Space for notes

Jesus tells us the best way to live – hear and obey his words. That doesn't mean we have to be perfect. Following Jesus isn't about how 'good' we are – it's about trusting that his way is best. Sometimes we will get it wrong. Not everyone is living his way – some are living the foolish way. Some of our friends may laugh at us for doing what Jesus says. Sometimes we will follow them, not him. Jesus knows that sometimes we'll mess up. He isn't strict and scary. He isn't going to shout at us when we don't obey him. He's gentle and loves us so he tells us what to do when that happens – admit our mistake, say sorry and ask him to help us change. He knows we need his help and he loves helping us.

Jesus loves us and he wants us to be safe with God forever. He has told us the wise way to live. So, let's not listen to this parable and then just ignore it. That would be foolish! Ask Jesus today to help you build your life on him – he will help you to hear and obey him.

Pray to close.

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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)



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**Talk 8: Wise or Foolish?
(Matthew 7:24-29)**



Big Idea

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Did you spot it?

1. What did the wise person build his house on?
2. What did the foolish person build his house on?
3. Which house survived the storm?



Work it out.

1. What did Jesus say a wise person does in real life?
2. Why is it so important to be wise/hear and do what Jesus says?



Live it Out.

1. How do you feel about doing what Jesus says? Why?
2. Is it possible that our friends and family could think we are wise, but we are actually foolish? Why?



Pray.



Activity Pack 8

Build It

Wotsit Tower

You will need: Bags of Wotsits (or similar puffed corn crisps), cups/bowls of water, measuring tape, wet wipes and a disposable tablecloth (use this if playing in a carpeted room).

Set up: Set up in a room with a non-carpeted floor or place the tablecloth on the carpet. Divide the bags of Wotsits between the number of teams before the activities start.

- The aim is to make a Wotsit tower by sticking Wotsits together.
- Join Wotsits by wetting the end of one with water and connecting it to the end of another one.
- Children can construct the tower any way they like but it must be able to stand on its own. Encourage them to work as a team to make a strong foundation.

- If the tower topples when completed then measure the highest point that is still standing.
- Clean hands with wet wipes after the activity.

Scoring: Allocate points in order of tallest to shortest tower.

Safety: Check for food allergies before you begin. Any children who can't touch the Wotsits can still join in by making suggestions about how to design and build the tower.



Foam Foundation

You will need: Cans of shaving foam, plastic bucket/container, Lego or Duplo toy house (needs to be light enough to sit on the shaving foam) or foam/hollow plastic building blocks, spray bottles (enough for a full team to use them at the same time), jugs (to refill the bottles if there isn't a tap nearby), disposable tablecloths and a timer.

Set up: Place the disposable tablecloths on the floor. Place the plastic bucket upside down in the centre of the tablecloths. Fill the spray bottles (and jugs if necessary) with water.

- The aim is to wash away the foam foundation so that the house/blocks fall over.
- Spray a large mound of shaving foam onto the top of the bucket. Place the house or stack some blocks on top of the foam.

- Give each child a spray bottle and have them stand anywhere around the bucket as long as they are at least 1 metre away from it.
- Children spray water at the foam until it washes away and the house/blocks fall over.
- Time the teams to put them in order of speed.
- Fill empty water bottles before the next team arrives.

Scoring: Allocate points to teams in order of fastest to slowest.

Safety: No running in/near the wet area. Water only to be sprayed towards the bucket, not at other children.





Biscuit Building

You will need: Biscuits (square and rectangular biscuits work best), icing sugar, sweets, paper plates, bowls, spoons, table, plastic tablecloth, hand sanitiser, wet wipes and a marker pen.

Set up: Mix icing sugar and water in bowls to make icing (a thick but still slightly runny consistency is best). Cover the table with the tablecloth before setting out plates, bowls of icing, spoons, the sweets and biscuits. Divide your supplies equally between the number of teams before the activities start so you have enough for each child. Make a simple biscuit house structure for the children to copy or give them a set of different biscuits which they can use to build a house however they choose.

- The aim is to build and decorate a biscuit house.
- Sanitise hands before starting. Write names on plates with the marker.

- Give the children a set amount of time to build the house structure - keep this time short so it's challenging to make the houses quickly but also to leave enough time for rebuilding and decorating afterwards. At the end of that time, test the stability of their structures - they must gently shake their plates from side to side to see if their houses remain standing. Once the houses have been tested, children can rebuild and decorate their biscuit buildings.
- Clean hands with wet wipes at the end of the activity.

Scoring: Give points for each house that successfully passed the stability challenge.

Safety: Check allergies before the activity. Provide alternative options if you are able to. Check the floor is clean between teams to avoid slipping on icing.



Balancing Buildings

You will need: Plastic plates, plastic cups and masking tape.

Set up: Use the masking tape to make 2 long lines, about 3 metres apart, on the floor.

- The aim is to walk a short distance while balancing stacked cups on a plate which is balanced on your head.
- Line up the children in pairs along one of the masking tape lines. Give each pair a plate and 3 cups.
- One child holds the plate on their head while the other stacks the 3 cups in a pyramid on the plate.
- The child holds the plate in place on their head while walking from one line to the other before returning to the starting point.
- The children then swap places so the other child has a turn to walk with the balanced cups.

- If cups fall during the walk, the other team member must help by restacking them/picking them up.
- 'No hands' challenge - can the children balance the plate and cups without holding it onto their head?

Scoring: Count the number of times a child walks the full distance without the cups falling over. Bonus points for successfully completing the 'no hands' challenge.

Safety: Leave space between the pairs so walking children don't trip over fallen cups or children trying to pick them up.





Stuck to a Wall

Grand Finale Game Suggestion

You will need: Duct tape (lots of rolls needed and it needs to be strong - avoid cheap brands), scissors, 2 chairs, a timer, 2 long sleeve T shirts and 2 pairs of trousers/tracksuit bottoms (shirts and trousers need to be big enough for the children to wear over their clothes but not adult size).

Set up:

- The aim is to stick a team member to the wall with duct tape.
- Each team chooses the smallest and lightest team member to stick the wall. Give them the long sleeve T shirts and trousers to wear if needed so the tape doesn't get stuck directly onto their skin.
- The 2 children stand on the chairs against a wall while the rest of the team attaches them to it with duct tape.
- Give the teams a set amount of time to tape the children to the wall. After that time, the chair must be removed. This must be supervised by a leader so it is removed slowly and carefully.

- Return the chair for the child to stand on before removing the tape. Be careful when removing tape from the child and the wall - no ripping!

Scoring: The team to successfully attach their team member to the wall wins. If both teams have been successful then set a timer to see if both children stay attached for a minute once the chair has been removed.

Safety: Have leaders supervise both teams to ensure safe use of scissors when the children are excited and rushing to cut tape. Leaders to supervise the attaching of tape - nothing over the head, face or neck. Use low chairs so the child isn't very far off the floor. Remove the chair slowly and carefully so the child is safe at all times.



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