

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM

Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 13

The Sermon on the Mount – The House Built on the Rock (Matthew 7:24-29)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. All of the Word is a parable - a story with a hidden meaning.
- B. In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord is trying to lift our thoughts above the plane of worldly ideas to a spiritual level. Taking the multitude up on a mountain represents this.
- C. In the parable of the house built on the rock, these are the basic correspondences:
 - Rock = the Lord's truth
 - Sand = the opinions of men
 - Rain, flood and wind = the trials and temptations we face in life
- D. We must look to the Lord for guidance rather than to ourselves, for only the Lord can speak with authority.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Today we are going to learn more about the time when the Lord preached a sermon to His disciples and to a huge crowd of people up on a mountain. We call His sermon the Sermon on the Mount.
 - 2. The Lord taught many wonderful things in this sermon. We've learned about two of these things In Sunday School.
 - a. He taught us how to pray. Do you remember what prayer is? (Talking to the Lord)
 - b. He also taught us not to worry, but to trust that the Lord will take care of us. Do you remember the things the Lord said not to worry about? (What we will eat, what we will drink, and what we will put on)
 - 3. The last part of the Sermon on the Mount was a parable. Do you know what a parable is? (A story with a hidden meaning) The Lord told a parable about a man who built his house on a rock and another who built his house on the sand. Listen carefully as we read the story from the Word.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
 - 1. Read aloud Matthew 7:24-29.
- C. Ideas to Discuss
 - 1. Where did the wise man build his house? (On a rock)
 - 2. What happened to the house when the rain, floods, and wind came and beat upon the house? (Nothing; it stayed there on the rock.)

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3. Where did the foolish man build his house? (On the sand)
4. What happened to the house when the rain, floods, and wind came and beat upon the house? (It fell.)
5. When the Lord finished speaking, how did the people feel about what He had said? (They were astonished. They were surprised because the scribes and Pharisees were hard to understand, but the Lord made the truth easy to understand.)

D. Further Ideas

1. The Lord said that people who do what He says are like the wise man who built his house on the rock. Can you guess what the rock means in this parable? (It means truth from the Word.)
2. The Lord said that people who do not do what He says are like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. What do you think the sand means? (It means the ideas of people who do not look in the Word for the truth. They think they know what is right without the Lord's telling them.)
3. What do you think is meant by the rain, floods, and wind that came and beat upon both houses? These are the hard times we have in this life; problems, illnesses, accidents, and temptations. Bad things happen to good people as well as to bad people on this earth. But people who look to the Lord and His Word will make it through the hard times more easily than those who look to themselves.
4. Do you want to be like the wise man or the foolish man? If you want to be like the wise man, then try to do what the Lord tells you in His Word! And when you aren't sure what is right, ask yourself, "What would the Lord want me to do?"
5. The Lord wants us to be happy. We have talked about three ideas from the Sermon on the Mount that can help us to be happy if we do them:
 - a. Pray; talk to the Lord
 - b. Do not worry; trust the Lord
 - c. Look to the Word of the Lord for truth rather than to yourself; and do what is right.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "All that the Lord has spoken," HYMNAL #245.
2. "Happy hearts," HYMNAL #158.
3. "Lord, Thou art my portion," HYMNAL #168.

B. Activities

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C. Project: BUILD A HOUSE ON A ROCK

1. Materials Needed for Each Child

- a. 12" x 18" construction paper
- b. Gray, red, and white construction paper
- c. Templates to make the rock and the Word (patterns attached)
- d. Materials to make a house (paper or drawing materials)
- e. Text slip: "Whoever hears these sayings of Mind, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house upon the rock."

2. Before Class

- a. For every four or five children expected to attend, make templates for the rock and the Word from stiff paper or cardboard.
- b. Precut the rock and the Word for the younger children.
- c. Photocopy text slips.
- d. Optional; Trace enough rocks and Words for all the children, and have children cut them out in class (or precut some/all of them).

3. In Class

- a. Turn paper so it is taller than it is wide. Cut out gray rock and glue it near the bottom of the page.
- b. Make the Word using red and white rectangles: Write "WORD" on the white rectangle and center it over the red one. Glue in place. (Perhaps children would like to draw a vertical line down the center of the white rectangle so it will look like an open book.) Glue the Word onto the rock.
- c. "Build" a house on top of the rock using paper or drawing materials.
- d. Glue text slip onto the page.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the Lord preaching the Sermon on the Mount with His disciples gathered about
- B. The teacher may want to set up a demonstration of the house on the rock and the house on the sand using a dishpan of sand, a flat rock, and small blocks or Lego building blocks.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Volume 4, "The Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5, 6, and 7).

Rock (White or Gray Paper)



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WORD (White Paper)

Note: Teacher can trim 3x5 cards to make
template

WORD (Red Paper)

Note: 3"x5" index card may be used as template
for this piece.