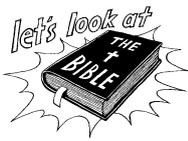


Teaching Plan - Two kinds of people - which are you? (Based on wise and foolish builder parable)

Aim - To show that we need to spend time praying (talking with Jesus) and reading/listening to the bible.



Welcome



Bible reading: Matthew 7: 24-29



Activity

Get people in group to build 2 houses - one made with bricks (Lego) on a table - one made with playing cards (possibly in a sand tray - spend time looking at them and invite comments. Then either get lots of people to blow on them or use a hairdryer - you know what happens next!! Alternatively use a watering can - when the water hits the cards they will fall down.



Talk

Have you ever watched people building a house?

It is a big job and can take a very long time but when it is finished it looks good on the outside and when you go in to the house it feels warm and safe - a place to enjoy being in - your place to live in, have fun in and sometimes to be upset in. The important thing is that whenever we are out and about and whatever is happening, we can always go back to our house - it will be there, and we know we can rely on getting in and keeping safe there. Going home and being able to relax there is a good feeling.

What do you like most about your home?



Bible reading: Matthew 7: 24-29

Jesus told the story of the good builder who built a strong house and the silly builder who built a house that was not strong - whenever the rain and wind came it just fell down.

Jesus told that story (sometimes called a parable) to teach us something.

What do you think he was teaching us? Give lots of time for answers - they will give you an idea of what the group members understand so far.

Jesus was telling us that it is important to get to know all about him and God. They will never leave us on our own - they are a bit like that strong house keeping us safe from any danger. When good things happen to us, they will be with us and when bad things happen to us, they will be with us just the same - loving us and caring about us.

Jesus wants us to get to know him better and better so that we never feel on our own.

How can we do that?

- By hearing about Jesus from the Bible - what he says in it is true - it is the same for every one of us.
- Some of us can read the bible and we should do that every day. Sometimes we could watch a DVD of bible stories or we could listen to a CD.
- We can all speak to Jesus - telling him what we are happy about and what worries us. If we stay quiet for a wee while we can often feel safe, calm and happy - these are the gifts of love, peace and joy that Jesus wants to give us - but we need to spend time with him.

Final thought: Spending time getting to know Jesus better is the most important thing we can do in our lives.



Prayer Time

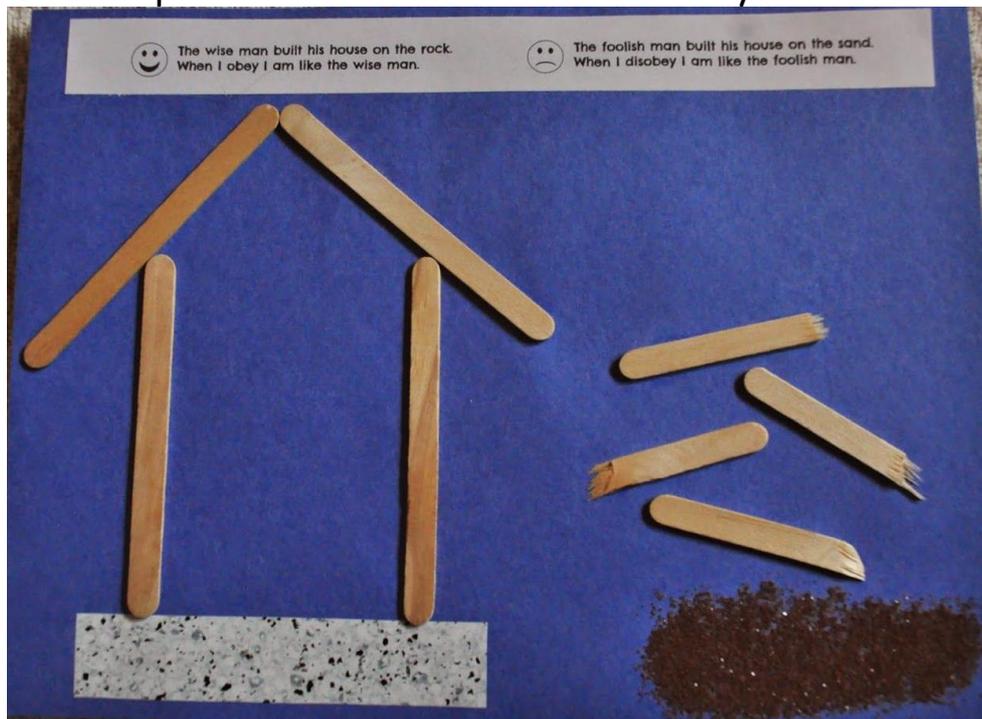
Give everyone a stone/ building brick - encourage each person to pray for something that is worrying them and then to lay their stone on the table to make the shape of the cross (always explain that the cross reminds us of Jesus and his love for us).

Quiet moment: If this is possible perhaps just be still for a minute or two - could play *Be still* quietly in the background.



Possible Craft

Make a picture as a reminder of the story.



Possible Songs

The wise man built his house upon the rock
The bible is the word of God (Prospects)
I want to worship the Lord with all of my heart.

