

A stone house with lit windows perched on a cliff overlooking the ocean at sunset. The sky is filled with golden clouds, and the sea is turbulent with white-capped waves crashing against the base of the cliff.

Build your house
upon the

ROCK

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Matthew 7:24

Object Lesson

The Wise and Foolish Builder

Matthew 7:24-27

This object lesson will show why it is important to build our lives on a solid foundation.

That foundation is the Word of God

For this object lesson, you will need:

2 small plastic totes (leakproof)

2 paper cups—(If you have access to some 2X4s and a person to saw them to length for you...do so!) You will need 8 small pieces of 2X4...cut into 4X4 lengths. The boards will represent the 4 walls of both houses. Note: a 2X4 does not measure a true 2X4, so cut the boards to approx. size)

1 small bowl (to create your sand mold)

1 larger bowl to mix your sand in

Sand

2 Bricks

A pitcher of water

Before class, fill the pitcher with water. Draw doors and windows on the paper cups (or 4 of the blocks of wood)

Set out everything you will need for the lesson.

A stone house with a dark roof is perched on the edge of a steep, grassy cliff. The sun is setting behind the house, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, and the ocean below is turbulent with white-capped waves crashing against the base of the cliff. The overall mood is one of isolation and the fragility of human construction in nature.

Object Lesson:

While talking about the foolish man, moisten the sand (slightly). Once the sand is sticking together, fill the smaller bowl. Pack it in tightly as if creating a solid sand mold.

When finished making the sand mold. Carefully dump it out of the mold and into one of the plastic totes.

Take a paper cup (or 4 pieces of wood) and carefully set it on top of the sand. If using wood, set 4 pieces up to form a square (4 walls of the house).

Say: Do you believe anyone could be so foolish as to build their house on top of sand?

Say: “Others are much wiser and they will build their house on a good foundation.”

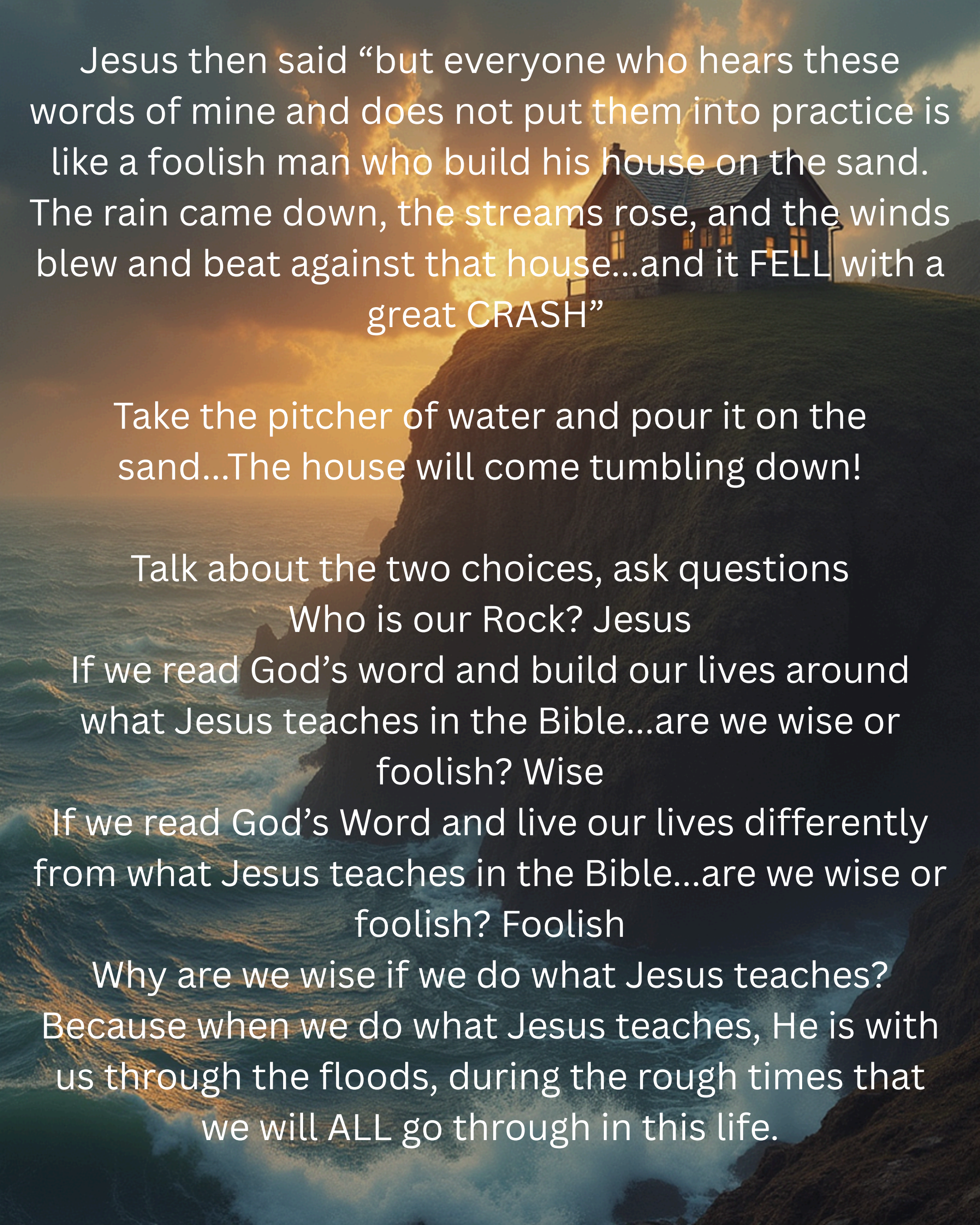
While talking about the wise man, set two bricks side by side into the bottom of the second tote. (Side by side)

Take the second paper cup (or the last 4 pieces of wood) and build the second house on top of the brick.

Say: Which house do you think will stand, and which house do you think will be destroyed?

Say: The Bible tells us in Matthew 7:24-27 that anyone who hears the words of God and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built 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 rock.

Take the pitcher of water and pour on the bricks.

A photograph of a small, two-story house with a gabled roof and several windows, perched on the edge of a steep, grassy cliff. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light illuminating the sky and the house. The ocean is visible in the background, with waves crashing against the base of the cliff. The overall mood is dramatic and somewhat somber, reflecting the text's message about the consequences of not following Jesus' teachings.

Jesus then said “but everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who build his house on the sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house...and it FELL with a great CRASH”

Take the pitcher of water and pour it on the sand...The house will come tumbling down!

Talk about the two choices, ask questions

Who is our Rock? Jesus

If we read God’s word and build our lives around what Jesus teaches in the Bible...are we wise or foolish? Wise

If we read God’s Word and live our lives differently from what Jesus teaches in the Bible...are we wise or foolish? Foolish

Why are we wise if we do what Jesus teaches? Because when we do what Jesus teaches, He is with us through the floods, during the rough times that we will ALL go through in this life.

What kind of storms can God help us withstand?

God's word tells us that when we build on a firm foundation, He will help us weather life's storms.

