

7-8-9 Small Group

LESSON 1 - "BUILD On The Right Foundation"



Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I Will Build My Life On The Rock!"



Bible Story:

Parable Of The Two Builders - Luke 6:46-49



Daily Focus:

MAKING GOOD CHOICES

Leader Instructions: Everything you need for the group will be provided.

Please ask Mindy or Amber if you have any questions.

*Please remember to allow the Holy Spirit to move in small group time. Allow Him to speak through you, say or do the things that He prompts you to do this week with this group of kids.

Retelling the Bible Story:

- Divide your group into 2 teams.
- Give 1 team the **picture of the house on the rock* - call them TEAM SOLID ROCK
- Give 1 team the **picture of the house on the sand* - call them TEAM SINKING SAND

Say: *"You all are going to help retell the Bible Story we heard tonight by acting it out!"*

"Team Solid Rock, work together to show us how you build your house."

- allow team to act out

Say: *"Team Sinking Sand, show us how you build your house."*

- allow team to act out

- hold up the ** storm picture of the house on the rock*

Say: *"Team Solid Rock, show us what would happen to your house when a storm hits."*

- Have the other team make wind and storm sounds while the team acts out

- hold up the ** storm picture of the house on sand*

"Team Sinking Sand, show us what would happen to your house when a storm hits."

- Have the other team make wind and storm sounds while the team acts out

Say: *"Thanks for helping bring God's Word to life!"*

"One man made a smart CHOICE, one man made a bad CHOICE."

"Which man made a smart choice?"

"Yes! He built his house on solid ground!"

Say: *“Jesus taught that we have a CHOICE.”*

“A smart person builds their life on Him!”

“The foolish man did not CHOOSE wisely, he build his house on sand.”

“That is like a person who does not choose Jesus.”

“Their life will crumble and fall apart without Him.”

Hands-On Activity:

Show kids the ***Jenga game** and have them help build a tower.

Ask the following questions, 1 kid at a time.

If they get it right - no blocks are removed.

If they get it wrong - pull 1-3 blocks.

Q1. *Where did the wise man build his house?*

A. Rock

Q2. *Where did the foolish man build his house?*

A. Sand

Q3. *True or False: Both houses survived the storm.*

A. False

Q4. *The wise man, hears God’s commands and _____ them.*

A. Obeys

Q5. *True or False: Obedience is a choice we should make every single day.*

A. True

Q6. *Whatchagaddaknow?*

A. I will build my life on the rock!

Q7. *Finish our Power Verse: “Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a _____ ?*

A. Wise Builder

Q8. *Where is our Power Verse found?*

A. Matthew 7:24

Q9. *True or False: We should pick and choose which of God’s commandments we want to obey.*

A. False

Q10. *Who will help us make it through the storms of Life?*

A. God

Leader Instructions:

** If tower did **NOT** fall:

Say: *“Great listening tonight, you didn’t let our tower fall!”*

“What happens when we don’t build our life on Jesus?”

“Yes, it will crumble” (knock the tower down)

*“Remember to **CHOOSE** Jesus and keep Him as your strong foundation your whole life!”*

Say: *“Say with me: “I will build my life on Jesus!”*

** If tower **DID** fall:

Say: *“Nice try on answering the questions, but we got too many wrong and our tower fell.”*

“That is like what will happen when we don’t build our life on Jesus, our lives will crumble!”

*“Remember to **CHOOSE** Jesus and keep Him as your strong foundation your whole life!”*

“Say with me: “I will build my life on Jesus!”

Say: *“The man who built his home on sand, probably wouldn’t have called himself foolish.”*

“He probably thought his sandy spot was nice and comfortable.”

“Then when the storm came, it proved to be a mistake.”

“Too often, we make choices because they feel nice and easy.”

“When we make other things more important than Jesus, we become like a Jenga tower that’s losing blocks.”

“We might hold it together for a while, but eventually it all falls apart.”

“Say with me: “I will build my life on Jesus!”

Prayer Time: (have group sit in circle)

Pray: *“Dear God, help us to not only hear Your words but to also obey them. Help us to make wise life choices and help us to build our lives on Jesus so we can stand strong when hard times come. Amen”*

Extra Time Filler:

*Lego Power Verse Blocks

Allow kids to put the Power Verse blocks together correctly



Power Verse:

“Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder...”

-Matthew 7:24 (CEB)

7-8-9 Small Group

LESSON 2 - "BUILD With The Right Materials"



Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I Will Build My Life With The Good Things of God!"



Bible Story:

Daniel Refuses The King's Food - Daniel 1



Focus:

BUILD WITH THE GOOD THINGS OF GOD

Leader Instructions: Everything you need for the group will be provided.

Please ask Mindy or Amber if you have any questions.

*Please remember to allow the Holy Spirit to move in small group time. Allow Him to speak through you, say or do the things that He prompts you to do this week with this group of kids.

Retelling the Bible Story:

Say: "We're ready to retell our Bible Story!"

- Hold out the *lunch sack for each kid to pick one *food piece

Say: "Pick one piece of food from our lunch sack."

"If you picked a "healthy" piece of food you will play the part of Daniel and his 3 friends."

"If you picked an "unhealthy" piece of food you will be the king's men."

"And (your small group assistant) will be be our mean King Nebuchadnezzar."

-Pick one of the "healthy" kids to be Daniel and one of the "unhealthy" kids to be Ashpenaz.

Read while the kids act out the story:

"Daniel and his 3 friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were living happily in the land of Judah with their families. Far away there was a wicked city called Babylon. This city had an evil king named King Nebuchadnezzar. King Neb did not believe in God. He worshipped false gods."

"One day King Neb, decided to capture people from the land of Judah. Daniel and his 3 friends were among the thousands that were taken from their home. When they got to Babylon, King Neb chose them to be some of his personal servants in his castle. King Neb

told all of his servants to eat the food and wine that he would provide for them. This was a big problem, because God had told them what foods He wanted them to eat and it was NOT the same as King Neb's food."

"Daniel asked the chief of staff, Ashpenaz, if he and his 3 friends could eat their own choice of food. But Ashpenaz was afraid of the king and said no. So Daniel made a deal with Ashpenaz. He said, "Let my friends and I eat only the food approved by God for 10 days. If we are not stronger and healthier than the other servants, then we will eat the king's food and wine."

"Ashpenaz agreed to the deal and Daniel and his friends ate the healthy food while the other servants ate the king's food. When Daniel and his friends stood before King Neb. The king was so impressed with how strong and healthy they were that he gave them better jobs at the castle. From then on, Daniel and his friends were allowed to eat the food that was approved by God. They grew in wisdom and respect in the king's castle."

Say: *"Great job bringing God's word to life!"*

Hands-On Activity:

Pass out the ***Philippians 4:8 Print Pieces** and ***Pens**

Say: *"Daniel and his friends were far from their home and they were slaves to a mean king."*

"They had no hope of safety or a good future under the mean king."

"The king pressured them to come to his dark side and forget about God."

"I'm sure it was tempting to them, to just do what the king was asking."

"But something was different about Daniel and his friends."

"Have you ever felt tempted to do something that God would not like?"

-allow time for discussion-

Say: *"The pressure to fit in is sometimes tough to resist."*

"Even Jesus was tempted under pressure!"

"There is a way to honor God and do what is right!"

"We have to make the choice to fill our lives with the GOOD THINGS OF GOD."

"Let's read this verse from the Bible to find out what those good things are....."

-read verse on paper-

Say: *"I want each of you to underline the following words on your verse: "TRUE", "HONORABLE", "RIGHT", "PURE", "LOVELY", "ADMIRABLE", EXCELLENT" and "WORTHY OF PRAISE".*

-allow time for kids to underline those words-

Say: *"These things are the good things of God!"*

"If we fill are lives with them, we will be strong and healthy Christians!"

"Now let's think about what the opposites of these words are:"

-using the ***opposites page** have kids think of the opposite word for each good thing-
example: (FALSE/LIES, DISHONEST, WRONG, DIRTY, UGLY, SHAMEFUL, HORRIBLE, UNWORTHY/DESERVES BLAME)

Say: *"What is the danger of building a life that is filled with this bad stuff?"*

-allow time for discussion-

Say: *"These things often hide in music, movies, video games, books and even in friendships."*

"These bad things don't shout at us, "Hey, we're awful for you!"

"They're very sneaky."

"So how can we stay away from sin and build our lives on the good things of God?"

-allow time for discussion-

Say: *"We must choose every day to fill our lives with the good things of God!"*

"Say with me: "I will build my life with the good things of God!"

Prayer Time: (have group sit in circle)

Pray: *"Dear God, tonight we ask You to help each of these kids to resist giving in to pressure of "fitting in" with bad things and to fill their lives with the good things of You. And help them to build their lives on Jesus. Amen"*

Extra Time Filler:

***Good Things Word Search**

Allow kids to find the hidden words

***Lego Power Verse Blocks**

Allow kids to put the blocks together correctly



Power Verse:

"Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder..."

-Matthew 7:24 (CEB)

7-8-9 Small Group

LESSON 3 - "BUILD With The Right Tools"



Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I Will Build With POWER Tools!"



Bible Story:

Peter Gets Power - Luke 22:54-62, Acts 2



Daily Focus:

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Leader Instructions: Everything you need for the group will be provided.

Please ask Mindy or Amber if you have any questions.

*Please remember to allow the Holy Spirit to move in small group time. Allow Him to speak through you, say or do the things that He prompts you to do this week with this group of kids.

Retelling the Bible Story:

Say: "We're ready to retell our Bible Story!"

-choose 4 kids to each hold a *Bible Story Picture-

Say: "Before we begin, we need to get our pictures in the right order."

-allow kids to help direct the picture holders in the right order-

1. Women pointing at Peter
2. Men praying in a room
3. Men with fire on their heads
4. Peter preaching

Say: "Great job! Now, I need to turn off the lights!"

"But don't worry, I have a powerful tool that will help us see in the dark!"

-with your *flashlight prepared, turn off the lights-

Say: "We're going to take turns shining our light on the picture while we retell the story."

-pass the flashlight to a kid without a picture to shine the light on the first picture-

Say: "Why are the women pointing at Peter and why does he look afraid?"

-allow kids to discuss-

Say: "Now pass the flashlight to the friend beside you and they can shine it on the next picture."

"What is going on in this picture?"

-allow kids to answer-

Say: *"Pass the flashlight."*

"What does the fire on the men's heads represent?"

-allow answers-

Say: *"Pass the flashlight."*

"What is Peter doing in this picture?"

-allow discussion-

Say: *"With the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT, Peter was no longer afraid to tell everyone that he knew Jesus and to share the good news of what Jesus had done for them all!"*

-turn lights back on to prep for the next activity-

Hands-On Activity:

Read Acts 1:8 to the group from your *Bible

- Divide the group into 2 teams and hand each team an ***"Acts 1:8" envelope**

Say: *"We're going to play a quick game using the verse we just read."*

"When I say "go", you're going to empty the words from your envelope and try to put them in the right order."

"But, as an extra challenge, you're going to do this in the dark!"

"Will you be able to do this when you can't see?"

*"You can't! So I will give each team a ***flashlight!**"*

-give each team a flashlight and turn out the lights and say "Go!"-

Play as many rounds as time allows.

Say: *"You could not create light on your own, but with the right POWER TOOL, a flashlight, you were able to complete the story and the game."*

"The Holy Spirit is a powerful tool for all believers."

"Let's talk about how the Holy Spirit can be a tool for us."

-pass out a ***Power Tools Print Piece** to each kid-

Say: *"I need a volunteer to read the first verse on here, Romans 8:26."*

-allow kid to read-

Say: *"How does the Holy Spirit help us pray?"*

-allow discussion-

Say: *"Now, let's learn how the Holy Spirit can help us understand the Bible."*

"Who can read the next verse for us? John 14:26"

-allow time to read and discuss-

Say: *"It is not always easy to tell others about Jesus but the Holy Spirit can help us with that too!"*

"I need someone to read the last verse, Acts 1:8"

-allow time to read and discuss-

Say: *"Before the Holy Spirit, Peter was filled with fear, denying he knew Jesus."*

"After the Holy Spirit, Peter was filled with courage and he shared the good news with thousands of people!"

Say: *"You can ask the Holy Spirit to be your helper too!"*

"Say with me: "I will Build my life with POWER TOOLS!"

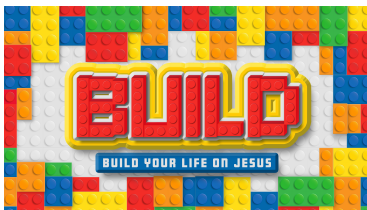
Prayer Time: (have group sit in circle)

Pray: "Dear God, tonight we ask You to be in the lives of each of these kids and fill them with the power of the Holy Spirit. And help them to build their lives on Jesus. Amen"

Extra Time Filler:

*Lego Power Verse Blocks

Allow kids to put the blocks together correctly



Power Verse:

"Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder..."

-Matthew 7:24 (CEB)

7-8-9 Small Group

LESSON 4 - "BUILD 4 Life"



Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I Gotta Build My Faith Every Day!"



Bible Story:

Jesus Teaches The Teachers - Luke 2:41-52



Daily Focus:

BUILDING OUR FAITH EVERY DAY

Leader Instructions: Everything you need for the group will be provided.
Please ask Mindy or Amber if you have any questions.

*Please remember to allow the Holy Spirit to move in small group time. Allow Him to speak through you, say or do the things that He prompts you to do this week with this group of kids.

Retelling the Bible Story:

Say: "We're ready to review our Bible Story!"

*"Today we're going to read it together from my *Bible."*

-choose 4 volunteers to read Luke 2:41-52-

Help 1st volunteer read: verses 41-43

Help 2nd volunteer read: verses 44-46

Help 3rd volunteer read: verses 47-49

Help 4th volunteer read: verses 50-52

Say: "I love to hear you read God's Word!"

"What was Jesus doing in this story?"

-allow time to answer and discuss-

Say: "He was asking questions and also teaching the teachers more about God."

"What did the temple teachers do during this story?"

-allow time to discuss-

Say: "Even though the teachers were older, they wanted to learn more too."

"Jesus and the teachers never stopped building their faith."

"What can we learn from this story?"

-allow time to discuss-

Hands-On Activity:

Say: "Building our faith everyday takes patience and endurance!"

"We're going to play a game to help us with patience and endurance."

-divide group into two teams and give each team a *stack of cups-

Say: *"I've got a *timer set for 60 seconds and we'll see which team can build the tallest tower in that time."*

"But if your tower falls, you have to start over!"

"Ready, Set, Go!"

-play as much as time allows-

Say: *"That was a pretty simple game, right?"*

"What would have happened if you would have stopped stacking your cups during the game?"

"Your tower would not have gotten very high."

"This is the same as our life."

"If we stop building our faith in Jesus, then our relationship with God will not grow."

"So how do we build our faith?"

-pass out a *My Faith Print Piece to each kid-

Say: *"The cups weren't going to stack themselves were they?"*

"Our faith is not going to build itself either."

"First things first, we must choose to build!"

"Write "CHOOSE" on the first blank space on your paper."

-allow time to write "choose"-

Say: *"Let's imagine I spent a lot of time building a super tall cup tower."*

"Then, I decide to hang around someone who has a bad habit of knocking down cup towers."

"What do you think would happen to my cup tower?"

-allow answers-

Say: *"If I hang around someone who knocks down cup towers, then eventually my tower is going to come crashing down."*

"If we hang around people who don't make good choices or people who don't build their faith every day, then eventually our faith can crumble too."

"Write "HANG AROUND" on the second blank."

-allow time to write "hang around"-

Say: *"Now, let's imagine the opposite."*

"If I build a cup tower and I hang around people who love to build cup towers, what will happen?"

-allow discussion-

Say: *"I can expect my tower to be better and stronger and taller because we have the same goal."*

"Same thing with our faith, if we hang around people who build their faith every day, then our faith will get stronger too!"

Say: *“Would my cup tower get tall if I stopped building it?”*

-allow answers-

Say: *“If we stop building our faith, will that grow?”*

-allow discussion-

Say: *“If we want to build our faith, we need to never stop building!”*

“Write “NEVER STOP” on the last blank space.”

-allow time to write “never stop”-

Say: *“Just like building cup towers, we gotta build our faith every day!”*

“Say with me: I gotta build my faith every day!”

Prayer Time: (have group sit in circle)

Pray: “Dear God, tonight we ask You to help each of these kids to fill their days with building their faith in You. And help them to build their lives on Jesus. Amen”

Extra Time Filler:

**Lego Power Verse Blocks*

Allow kids to put the blocks together correctly



Power Verse:

“Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder...”

-Matthew 7:24 (CEB)

7-8-9 Small Group

LESSON 5 - "BUILD The Kingdom"



Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I Will Build God's Kingdom and Share My Faith!"



Bible Story:

Andrew Brings Simon To Jesus - John 1:29-50



Daily Focus:

SHARE YOUR FAITH - BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM

Leader Instructions: Everything you need for the group will be provided.
Please ask Mindy or Amber if you have any questions.

*Please remember to allow the Holy Spirit to move in small group time. Allow Him to speak through you, say or do the things that He prompts you to do this week with this group of kids.

Retelling the Bible Story:

-Give each child ***2 paper plates, a straw and 6 Smarties-**

Say: "Please don't eat your candy yet!"

"I have loved spending time with you this week and I have loved studying the Word of God together."

"To review our Bible story from tonight, we're going to play a little game."

"Place all of your smarties onto your plate marked "SINNER".

"As I read a review of our story, every time you hear the name "Andrew" I want you to take your straw and move 1 of your candies from the "SINNER" plate to the "Jesus" plate."

Read:

"This story begins with John the Baptist. He was an incredible prophet who was telling people about the Savior of the world that was coming soon. Many people followed John the Baptist around and listened to every word he said. One day, John the Baptist was teaching and baptizing a crowd of people - when suddenly, Jesus walked by. Nobody knew who Jesus was yet, but John instantly knew."

*"John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" As soon as John called Jesus the "Lamb of God", several men stood up to follow Jesus. One of the men was named **Andrew**. **Andrew** became one of the first disciples of Jesus. He listened to Jesus and learned from Him."*

*“The first thing **Andrew** did was to go find his brother, Simon, and he told him, “Come with me, we have found the Messiah!” Messiah means, “the One sent from God”. **Andrew** brought Simon to meet Jesus and Simon became a disciple too. Jesus changed Simon’s name to Peter. You should know about Peter, right? He is the disciple that was afraid to tell others that he knew Jesus, but when he received the power of the Holy Spirit, he bravely told everyone about Jesus. Well, imagine if **Andrew** had never shared the good news of Jesus with his brother Simon-Peter. We can all learn a lesson from **Andrew**. He didn’t wait for someone else to tell others about Jesus, the **FIRST THING** he did was go tell Simon about Jesus.”*

-The End-

Say: *“Great job listening and moving your candies!”*

“You may now eat your candy.”

“Why did Andrew take his brother to meet Jesus?”

-allow time to discuss-

Say: *“How did meeting Jesus change Simon’s life?”*

-allow time to discuss-

Say: *“Could any of your smarties move themselves from the “SINNER” plate?”*

“Of course not!”

“The Bible tells us that we are all lost sinners in need of God’s forgiveness.”

“When we make the decision to follow Jesus and accept His forgiveness, we become found!”

“Sinners are people who do not know Jesus, they are lost.”

“Just like the smarties needed our help to move them from one plate to the other, many people need us to help them find Jesus.”

“God tells us how to help others find Jesus!”

“Let’s read what He says!”

*-pass out the *Mark 16:15 papers-*

Say: *“Would someone like to read the verse on the bottom of this paper?”*

-allow for someone to read Mark 16:15-

Say: *“Lost people don’t know that they need Jesus, but you do!”*

“Found people are to build God’s Kingdom and share their faith.”

“Let’s think of some ways we can share our faith and write them in the space on our papers.”

-allow time to discuss and write on the paper-

Say: *“Say with me: I will build God’s kingdom and share my faith!”*

Prayer Time: (have group sit in circle)

Pray: “Dear God, tonight we ask You to help each of these kids to share their faith with others to help BUILD Your Kingdom! In Jesus’ name, Amen.)

Say: “We have a fun way you can share your faith with others!”

“Remember the cards you worked on in Crafts each night?”

“Each of you will get one tonight that someone else at VBS made this week.”

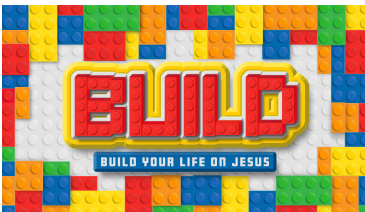
“You can write a note in it and share it with someone this summer!”

-Pass out a card to each child-

Extra Time Filler:

*Snacks! - Pass out the snack bags to each child

*Power Verse Practice - See if each child can recite the Power Verse



Power Verse:

“Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder...”

-Matthew 7:24 (CEB)