

SPARKS

MAIN POINT: For each child to hear the story of the wise man who built his house on the rock and link that to Jesus being our rock.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING: For each child to know that during any storm God is with us and we can stand because Jesus is our rock.

10:50am Free Play: *Some time to play before beginning the main session.*

11:15 Tidy Up Time: *In order to keep their attention during the crafts and story be sure to tidy away everything so that there are no distractions in the room.*

11:20 Story + Snack:

Ask the children if they like building things.

Ask if they play with lego or duplo or building blocks.

Ask if they like building train tracks or roads.

TELL THE STORY: Use the book provided (Stories Jesus told)

You may need to simplify it at times and it might be worth getting the children involved by getting them to do actions for 'building' or 'storm' and 'washed away'

11:30 Craft:

WISE BUILDER HOUSES

Using the outlines provided get the children to stick on the precut shapes to create doors, windows, chimneys etc.

You may need to help the children by getting them to think about what a house looks like. They may want to draw some features on like people in the windows or smoke coming out of the chimney.



11:40 Pray together:

Use some building blocks to think about firm foundations and how easy things are to knock over.

11:50 Songs: Use the Ipad to worship God. Feel free to pick whichever songs you'd prefer by searching on YouTube. Some examples: Our God is a great big God/Alive by Hillsong/My Lighthouse by Rend Collective.

SEARCH ON YOUTUBE: 'Wise man built his house upon the rock'

If ahead of time then free play or play games together like duck duck goose or musical statues using CD player. 12pm Children given their crafts and taken down stairs to the meeting point ready to be picked up.

FLAMES + BLAZE

MAIN POINT: For each child to hear Hebrews 6 talks about how God keeps his promises and is our strong foundation and be able to link this into the story of the wise man who built his house on the rock and link that to Jesus being our rock.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING: For each child to know that God is reliable during any storm God is with us and we can stand because Jesus is our rock.

10:50am Play a collective game once all children have arrived.

Something like duck duck goose, bean game, simon says, number ladders, what's the time Mr.Wolf, ZipZapBoing!

→ PLAY A BUILDING GAME USING MARSHMALLOWS AND SPAGHETTI

11:00 GROUP TIME

Sit as a group and ask: How are you doing?

Ask the children if they like building things and if they like lego or have ever made anything cool with lego. If not then ask if they like building train tracks or roads or anything else.

What surfaces do you build on? (This should hopefully get them thinking about the importance of good foundations)

11:15 BIBLE + Snack

We are continuing to look through the book of Hebrews. Today we are looking at CHAPTER 6. We won't read ALL of it as it's a little long so whilst you have your snack we will read verses 17-20 and then chat a little about it.

LISTEN TO THIS:

" God wanted to prove that his promise was true. He wanted to prove this to those who would get what he promised. He wanted them to understand clearly that his purposes never change. So God proved his promise by also making an oath. These two things cannot change. God cannot lie when he makes a promise, and he cannot lie when he makes an oath. These things encourage us who came to God for safety. They give us strength to hold on to the hope we have been given. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, sure and strong. It enters behind the curtain in the Most Holy Place in heaven. Jesus has gone in there ahead of us and for us."

Hebrews 6 shows us that God wants us to know that he always keeps his promises and that we can always trust him. And because of this we can depend on him to be our strong foundation so we can lean on him when we feel weak or wobbly or scared.

Then talk about how God is firm and reliable (you may want to give an example of how God is your firm foundation). Then ask if they can think of a time when God has helped them in a tough time. If they don't have any then just move on. Ask them if they can think of any stories that Jesus told about firm foundations?

See if the children can recall the story of the wise man who built his house on the rock.

Ask someone to read Matthew 7.24 and 25

"Anyone who hears and obeys these teachings of mine is like a wise person who built a house on solid rock. Rain poured down, rivers flooded, and winds beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on solid rock."

Ask the children to discuss:

- What does a rock look like?
- What does it feel like?
- What does it mean to have Jesus, the rock, in our lives?
- What do Christians mean when they say they are standing on a rock?

(We are not going to fall down when Jesus is holding us up. We have to rely on Jesus with every part of our lives. If we do rely on Jesus, He will not let us fall.)

Next ask another child to read v26-27

"Anyone who hears my teachings and doesn't obey them is like a foolish person who built a house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded, and the winds blew and beat against that house. Finally, it fell with a crash."

- What is sand like?
- What happens when you walk on it?
- What is it like to feel?
- Have you ever built a sandcastle?
- What happens when the sea comes in?
- How is this like not listening to God?
- What storms might people see in their lives?

When we build our lives on whatever we want, but not Jesus, it is like we are standing on the sand. Life can be hard and if the foundation we are standing on gets squishy, we will fall down. Living without Jesus means we will fall down just like the foolish man's house fell down when the storm came.

11:40 CRAFT

Get creative allowing children to make their own houses and remind them that it's the firm foundations that make the house strong.

Use the nets provided to make the houses. Get the children to decorate the houses. Colouring and sticking on other bits to make the house look awesome!

11:55 PRAY

Ask the children if there is anything they want to pray for? Ask if there is anything in their lives which feels uncertain or scary and if they'd like to share it. Tell them they don't have to if they don't want to and that they can just tell God in their heads instead. Then say this prayer together.

Dear God,

Thank you that you love us.

Thank you are strong like a rock, a firm foundation for us to stand on when we feel shaky and uncertain.

Help us this week to come to you when we are feeling wobbly and worried about things.

Help us to know who else we can talk to too so that we can know we are never alone.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

If you have time left over play another game together.