CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Life Lessons From Jesus

Lesson 3: The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders

About This Lesson

Right now, the young people are building a foundation based on their peers, social media influencers, teachers, family, and what they see and hear at church. Often, the youth don't realize how deep the influences are until they encounter a rough time, or a storm. This lesson shows the importance of planning ahead, which most youth aren't accustomed to doing, and building a solid foundation to weather the storms of life. Be real and share personal examples of a good foundation and a foolish foundation to help them understand we all make mistakes, but God is always there for us.

Key Takeaway: Jesus and His Word are the firm foundation that remains the same to help you through every storm in life.

Key Verse: Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Teaching Outline:

I. JESUS USED THE PARABLE OF THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH BUILDERS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO HEAR AND DO WHAT THE WORD SAYS

Matthew 7:24–27 *Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: [25] and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. [26] But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: [27] and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.*

A. Storms happen: rain descends, floods come, and winds blow.

B. Natural disasters happen: tornadoes, blizzards, and fires (give examples of natural disasters in your area).
C. Personal disasters happen: job loss, the end of a relationship, or death of someone close to you.
D. Storms don't have to destroy you because you can prepare for a storm.

II. PREPARE: BUILD YOUR HOUSE OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORD!

A. Psalm 119 is an acrostic poem. Each letter of the Hebrew alphabet begins a section and each verse in the section begins with that letter. In Psalm 119:9–16, *Beth* means house, and each verse begins with this letter.
   1. Verse 9 – cleansing comes from the Word.
   2. Verse 10 – approach the Word of God with your whole heart.
   3. Verse 12 – invite the Holy Spirit to teach you.
   4. Verses 13–16 – declare it, rejoice in it, meditate on it, contemplate it, delight in it, and don't forget it!

B. Each line reminds us that a house (life) must be built on the Word of God.

III. BUILD ON THE ROCK - JESUS

Psalm 18:2 *The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

A. I will not be moved or shaken because my life is founded on the Rock—Jesus!
   1. Hymn: *"On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."* Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*

B. Too many people are trying to build mansions on sinkholes! Don't build your foundation on money, possessions, or entertainment. If Christ is not your foundation, you'll sink!

C. When you are protected and safe on the rock, you can help others to safety. Don't join your sinking friends, tell them about your Rock!

IV. BE UNDIVIDED CONCERNING THE WORD OF GOD

A. Hear it, believe it, receive it, and act upon it with your entire heart!

B. A house divided against itself cannot stand (Matthew 12:22–28).

C. James 1:6–8 points out that doubt negates faith, *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; [8] he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."*

D. Keep building your life on God's Word!
   1. What if I don't see any change in my life? Don't tear down what God is doing in you! He who began a good work in you is faithful to complete it!
   2. What if a storm happens? Don't tear down your house! Keep building!
   3. What if things got beaten up? Build it better than before!

E. Take your brokenness to God! He is in the restoration business! He will make your life more beautiful than before!
   Job 42:10 *And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.*
   Psalm 66:12 (KJV) *…We went through fire and through water; But [You] brought us into a wealthy place.*

v. KEEP BUILDING MY CHURCH ON THE ROCK

A. Keep building the church on the Word. Keep building the church on the name of Jesus! Keep preaching the Word. Keep preaching the name of Jesus!!!
   1. There is power, healing, miracles, and deliverance in the Word of God
   2. There is power, healing, miracles, and deliverance in the name of Jesus!

B. The Word and the Spirit together create an impenetrable fortress!
   John 6:63 *…The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

C. Don't let the church become a museum. Don't let your life become a museum. Stir yourselves up! Tap into the spirit!

Bottom Line:
There is a firm foundation available for every storm in life—Jesus and the Word. Don't let the storm overtake you; choose to stay on the foundation that never changes!

Small Group Time:

1. Storms are common in every person's life. As you go through life, you will likely experience different storms. Talk about storms in your life and how it might not have seemed like you'd make it through, but you did.

- What life storm have you watched someone go through because they had a foundation in Christ? (To start the conversation, you might want to mention someone the young people know from the church.)
- What might have happened, if that person hadn't stood on their foundation with Christ?

2. When people isolate themselves in a storm, they don't have as good a survival rate as people who are in community and can help each other. Also, when you are isolated, it feels like you're the only one having a storm. You might not realize that others are in a similar storm, and you can share and encourage each other. If you'd like to share with this group anything that you, or someone close to you, is going through, we can pray and agree together to come through the storm with God's help.

- What little or big storm are you going through? Pray for each person to weather the storm they mentioned.

Declaration:

"I'm wise! I will build my life on the sure foundation of Christ and the Bible. I will hear and do what the Word of God says."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** On a scale of 1 (low) – 10 (high), how would you rate your life's foundation on Christ and the Word? What can you do to improve the score?
- **Pray:** Ask God to show you where there are "cracks" in your foundation that need to be fixed. Your foundation is what God's Word says, so be in the Word and let God speak to you through it.
- **Read:** Matthew 16:13–20 about how Peter recognized that Jesus was the Son of God and that revelation is the "rock" of our Christian faith. Write down your thoughts about what you believe about Jesus—that's your foundation. Find scriptures that back up what you believe.

- **Live It:** Think about possible "storms" that might come up this week, such as school tests, sports competition, family situation, etc. Prepare now by listing out some Scriptures that will bring hope, confidence, or peace. Read and memorize them so when the storm comes, you are safe on your foundation of God's Word!
- **Create:** The Bible uses acrostics in Psalm 119, seven other Psalms, Lamentations 1-4, Nahum 1:1-9, and Proverbs 31:10-31. Take "foundation" or "Word of God" and create an acrostic.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What would your ideal home be like, and where would it be located?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Look online for pictures of buildings in precarious locations around the world and have the young people vote on which ones they would be inside during a storm. Play the video or sing the contemporary worship song "Firm Foundation."

Opening Affirmation: "I love the Word of God because it speaks to me about my situation. I will seek to understand Jesus' parables and apply them to my life."

Giving Time: 1 Chronicles 29:14 *But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.*

At the end of King David's life, he was praising God for the offering that produced over $4 billion dollars to build the temple. In this verse, David says that they were just giving back to God part of what He gave to them. Our giving acknowledges that we are giving back a portion of what God has already given to us. A key is remembering to praise God for His blessings and not to have a bad attitude about what you are giving up. God always gives more than we can!

BEYOND –
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: There are other biblical examples of *Beth*:

1. Matthew 2:6 Bethlehem – House of Bread
2. Genesis 35:15 Bethel – House of God
3. John 5:2 Bethesda – House of Grace
4. Mark 6:45 Bethsaida – House of Fish

What would you call your church? Talk about an appropriate "House of …" title for your church. What would you call your house? Have the young people think about what they want as the foundation for their own home/life.

Biblical Worldview: Since a biblical worldview uses the Bible as its lens to view life, a biblical worldview's foundation of God's Word will help weather life's storms. Encourage the young people to keep a watchful eye on their friends when they go through storms. Often in the teenage storms of life, youth without a foundation in Christ and the Word of God, feel hopeless and contemplate dangerous decisions. The young people with a biblical foundation can offer hope and guide their friends to Jesus.

Outreach/Missions: Share church missionary letters or local situations in your church or town where the young people can pray for people going through storms in their lives. Encourage a time for the youth to pray for each other to stay on their firm foundation and help others find safety in the salvation that Jesus offers.