

Lesson Eight

Building on Rock

Theme : Names of God - rock
Bible Reference : Matthew 7:24-27

Aim

To show the steadfastness of God.

Recap

Recall the Bible Search they did last week when they discussed verses focusing on the image of God as a rock, a refuge and a safe place.

Development

1. Proclaim / Read: **Matthew 7:24-27** on the parable of 'The Two House Builders'.
2. Allow for a time of reflection in silence. Play some music in the background if necessary. Allow pupils to talk quietly to a friend or write how they feel about the text they have just heard.
3. If any one would like to share you could ask:
 What did you hear in this text?
 What word did you like or not like?
 What is God saying to you in this story? *(Be careful not to insist on any "right" answers.)*
4. Do the activity on worksheet 8.1, 'Reflect', as follows: Divide the class into small groups and give each group a packet of ice-cream sticks.
5. Ask the group to discuss what specific actions they can take to 'build' their lives on the rock of God *(e.g. praying daily, reading the Bible, listening to parents' advice etc)*
6. Write each action with a marker pen on an ice-cream stick.
7. Glue the ice-cream sticks together to form a model of a house (UHU or Silicon glue would be more effective, but pupils have to take care not to get it into their eyes or on sensitive skin)
8. While they are doing this, teacher can play in the background the song 'Rock of love', by Julie Sim, WWJ, Every step of the way, SPI, 1999, CD Vol II, No. 8.

Review & Reflect

1. Discuss:
 - a. Give a concrete example of a foolish young person who has built his house on sand. *(e.g. going along with friends to see a movie without my parents' permission because the friends won't befriend me otherwise; short-term desires must be fulfilled so they resort to shop-lifting, probe for more examples.)*

- b. Give a concrete example of a wise young person who has built his house on rock. *(e.g. choosing to play with my younger brother or sister instead of watching TV; being patient with them even if they dirty/spoil my favourite book/toy/game; probe for more examples)*
- c. What do we have to do in order to build our house on rock? *(Listen to Jesus' words and obey them)*
- d. What are the words of Jesus that he wants us to hear and obey? *(All his teachings on the beatitudes, being salt and light, about forgiveness, being faithful, loving your enemy, doing charitable acts, praying to God, not worrying about having riches, not judging others - all these are mentioned in Matthew Ch 5-7, just before this parable. If students find there are too many words of Jesus to obey, just sum it up in the rule to love as he loved us.)*
- e. Teacher to sum up - when we focus on God everyday, turn to him when we have problems, pray to him for enlightenment when we can't decide what to do, rest our worries on him when we feel burdened - these are all ways in which we build on the Rock of Love that is God.

(Teacher's Note: In certain parts of Palestine, it is a common occurrence to have flash floods which start with just a light rainfall, but within half an hour can develop into torrential flooding of gorges and ravines because of the build up of stream water rushing down the hillsides. Those people who are foolish enough to build their houses in the gorge or ravine instead of on the high rocks on both sides, could easily have been washed away by the floods in an instant. Thus, Jesus' use of this parable was something familiar to the Palestinian audience.)

Conclusion

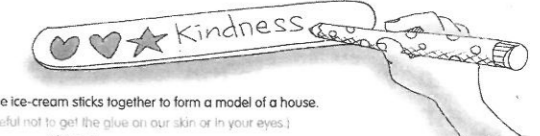
Pray: Ask a volunteer to say a short prayer of thanks to God for being the 'rock' in our lives.

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Worksheet 8.1 Matthew 7:24-27

Reflect
 What actions can you take to 'build' your life on the rock of God? Share your ideas with your small group.

Get a bunch of ice-cream sticks
 Write the actions you thought about onto the ice-cream sticks with a marker pen. You may want to decorate the sticks with hearts, rockets, stars, faces etc.



Glue the ice-cream sticks together to form a model of a house. *(Be careful not to get the glue on our skin or in your eyes.)*



While you are working on your model house think of the words of the song that are playing in the background ('Rock of love')

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 Jesus, the New Covenant