

The Rock and the Sand

Matthew 7:12-29; *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 147-152

Have you ever built a sand castle on the beach? Even though you build it high and you pat the sand until it is firm, what happens when the foamy waves wash around it? A long time ago Jesus told a story about that.

One day Jesus sat on the side of a hill, talking to hundreds of people seated on the grass in front of Him. Jesus knew about storms and floods. So did the people seated around Him.

Many of them had lived near the Sea of Galilee all of their lives.

When they were children, they probably played at the water's edge.

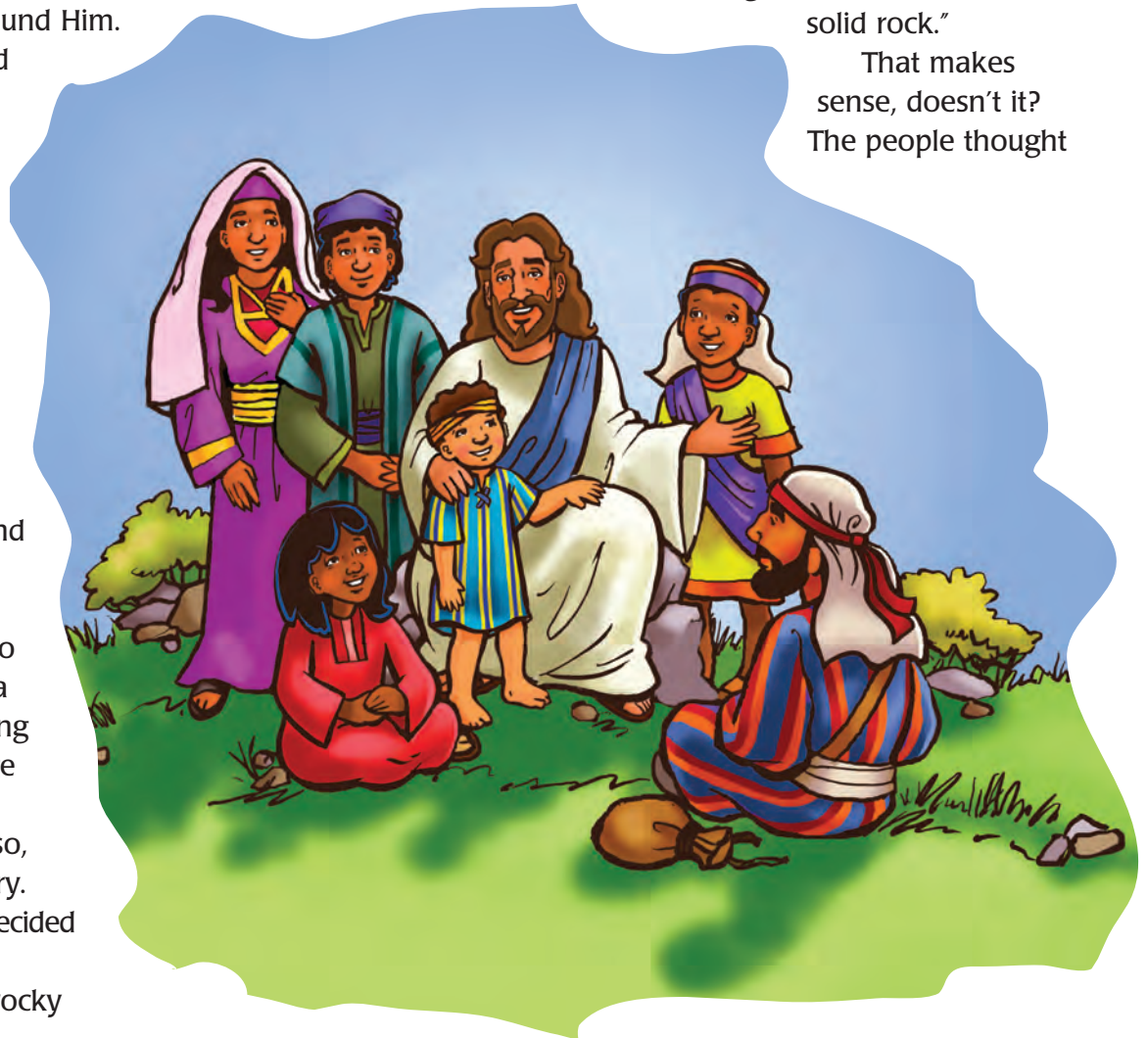
Jesus loved the people so much. He wanted them to understand about God. He wanted them to understand how to be joyful. Maybe a story about building at the water's edge would help them understand. And so, Jesus told this story.

"Once a man decided to build a house. He chose a high, rocky

ledge on which to build it. Water wouldn't flood his house. His house would be safe and the foundation strong.

"The man worked hard carrying the building materials all the way up onto the rock. After the house was finished, the rains came down. The wind blew and blew. The streams grew bigger and bigger, overflowing their banks. Now there was flooding to worry about. But the house was safe. The man had built it on a strong, firm, foundation of solid rock."

That makes sense, doesn't it? The people thought



The Message

I am joyful when I build
my life on Jesus.

Memory Verse

“My God is my
rock, in whom I
take refuge”
(Psalm 18:2, NIV).

so. They all nodded and said, “Amen.” And Jesus told them, “If you listen to God and live for Me, you are building your house on the Rock.”

And all the people nodded and said “Amen” again because building on rock made sense.

Then Jesus continued. His story was not done.

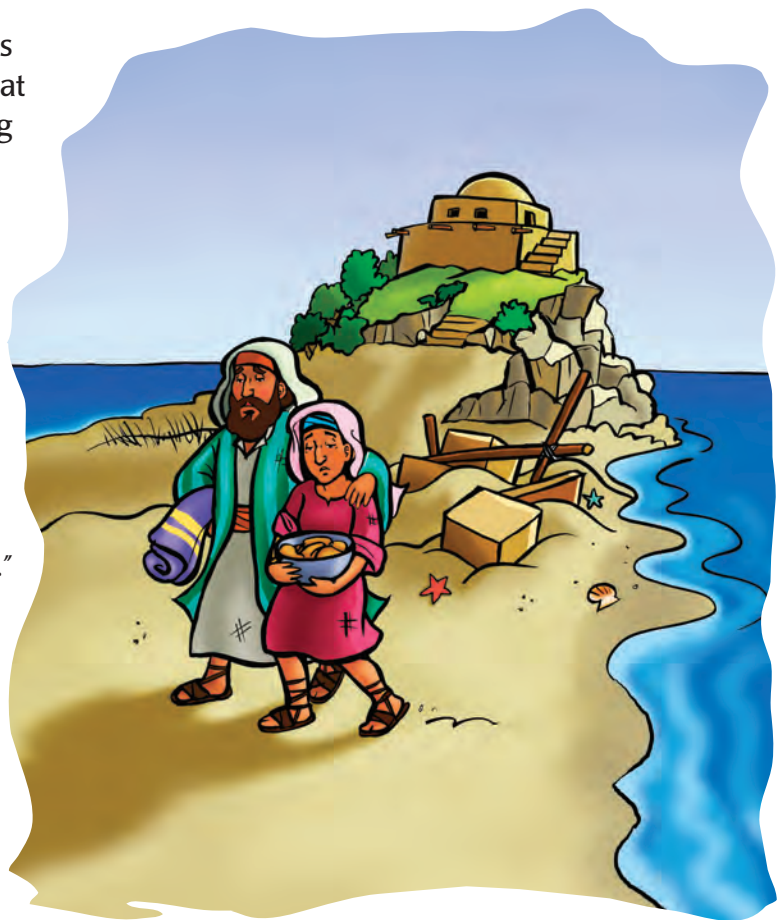
“Another man built himself a house. This man chose to build his house on the sand at the water’s edge. He probably built a strong house too. And he probably worked very hard at it.

“After the house was finished, the rains came and pounded it. The wind blew and blew. The streams rose higher and higher and overflowed their banks. Soon they flooded the house. The waves beat and beat against the house, washing away the sand underneath it. And the house fell in with a mighty crash because there was no deep, firm foundation supporting the walls.”

What a foolish man! the people may have thought. *He should have known better.* And so he should have. But listen to what Jesus said next.

“When people listen to My words but do not do anything about them, they are as foolish as that man. They cannot expect to be joyful. The wise person not only listens, but is willing to do what I say.”

The people opened their eyes in amazement as they listened to Jesus. His teaching was very different from the teachers of the law they usually heard. Some of the people may even have remembered what David said in Psalm



18:2: “My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge” (NIV).

I wonder how many people who heard Jesus that day were willing to build their lives on Jesus? How many wanted to study and live by God’s Word? How about you?



S A B B A T H

DO Go with your family to sit on a big rock or on a sandy beach. Read the Bible lesson story together. Sing “The Wise Man and the Foolish Man” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 62).

READ Read aloud Psalm 18:2. Review the part that is your memory verse.

M O N D A Y

DO Arrange your memory verse rocks in the correct order.

DO From the list below, circle the words that describe what a rock is like.

STRONG HEAVY WEAK UNCHANGING
STEADY ANGRY SOFT HARD

DO Compare the words you circled to Jesus. Use your Bible to find some other words that describe Jesus. See John 1:29; John 6:35; John 15:1. What are the words?

S U N D A Y

SHARE Together with your family, read and discuss Matthew 7:24-29.

DO Find 11 small, flat rocks. With a marker, write one word of your memory verse on each rock. (Don’t forget the text.) Or, use rock cutouts from paper.

DO If possible, visit a construction site with your parents. Notice the foundation.

Here in rocky, hilly Galilee rain doesn’t sink into the ground, but floods into the valleys. A house built in an unsafe place will be washed away in the floods.



T U E S D A Y

DO At worship time, look for pictures of walls, roads, and other things made from rock. People use rock because it is strong and provides good protection. How is Jesus like a rock? Read 2 Samuel 22:2 together.

DO Put your memory verse rocks in the right order, then say your memory verse without looking.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Say your memory verse together during family worship. Then review Psalm 23 together.

DO Look for a verse from Psalm 23 that has a close meaning to the memory verse.

SING Sing “A Shelter in the Time of Storm” (*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, No. 528).



T H U R S D A Y

READ During worship today, read Matthew 7:24.

DO Place a pile of sand (or sugar or salt) on a dish. On another dish place a flat rock. Add drops of water, one at a time, to each dish. What happens when the water hits the sand? the rock? Can anything sink into a rock? Jesus is steady and strong like a rock.*

DO Review your memory verse with your family.

*(Adapted from Kathie Reimer, *1001 Ways to Help Your Child Walk With God* [Wheaton, Ill: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1994], p. 85.)

F R I D A Y

SING For family worship, sing your family's favorite "rock" songs from *Sing for Joy* or *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*.

DO Memorizing Scripture and doing what it says is a great way to build your house on the Rock and to worship God. Try to say for your family all the memory verses you have learned so far this quarter.

DO Bring a large rock to worship and sign your name on it with a marker. Invite your family members to do this too. Read Isaiah 26:4 out loud. Then ask everyone to put their hands on the rock and ask God to help them always to remember that He is strong and that they can count on Him to take care of them. Thank God for being your Rock forever.**

** (Adapted from Lisa Flinn & Barbara Younger, *Making Scripture Stick* [Loveland, Colo: Group Books, 1992], p. 127).

PUZZLE

Directions: Look for a promise in this puzzle.

GOLD - L = _____



+ ES = _____

3 + 1 = _____



= _____