



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus' Words Matter

SCRIPTURE: [Matthew 7](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [Luke 10:27](#)

I recently watched a news story where two homes had to be evacuated because they had been built on an old ravine. As the houses tumbled into the canyon below, one of the homeowners remarked how they had hoped it wouldn't end like this.

I wonder whether people warned them about the questionable foundation when they invested in the home a year prior. Were they so in love with a house and its location that they failed to heed the warnings of builders and inspectors? As they saw cracks appear in the drywall and driveway and saw the ground shifting in the yard, did those ignored words return in full force?

Have you ever heard the warnings of others and chosen not to listen? Or even heard the Word of God and chosen to ignore it? Take a moment to read about the wise and foolish builders in [Matthew 7:24–27](#). The builders are different not because of the words they hear but because of what they did in response to those words. The one who put the words into practice is compared to a wise builder who built on a firm foundation. The one who didn't is called foolish, and his house fell with a great crash.

Jesus' words matter—not just enough to simply read or hear them, but to act on them. They exude His love and attention, and when we put them into practice, Jesus' words can change the trajectory of our lives.

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 1 **FOR LEADERS**
THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

According to church tradition, the Gospel of Matthew was written by one of the 12 disciples, the former tax collector named Matthew. The Gospel follows the structure of Mark while relaying more of Jesus' teaching for a Jewish-Christian audience.

WHAT?

This parable forms a conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus outlines the demands of righteous living under God's kingdom rule. Since Jesus is the fulfillment of the law ([Matthew 5:17–20](#)), He charges listeners to act according to—and not simply listen to—His words.

WHERE?

In [Matthew 5:1](#), Jesus ascends a “mountain” or “hill.” This setting for the sermon is both practical and meaningful: Jesus' position made Him visible to a large crowd and communicated Jesus' authority over the Mosaic Law.

WHEN?

Matthew could have been written around the destruction of the Jewish temple in 70 A.D. Jesus warns His followers that the temple shall be destroyed, and He tells them to share the kingdom message with all nations ([Matthew 24:1–2](#), [28:18–20](#)).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' message is that God's kingdom is near ([Mark 1:15](#)). In and through Jesus, God is redeeming the world and defeating the powers of sin and death.



Curiosity

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Hidden Objects

SUPPLIES: small objects or toys from the room (3–4), box

Ahead of time, choose three to four small objects from the room and place them in a box so the kids can't see them.

We're going to do an activity that's like a guessing game! I'm going to use words to give you clues about something I'm holding behind my back. Listen closely to the words I'm saying!

Take the objects from the box one at a time. Each time, place the object behind your back and give the kids clues about the object until they guess what it is. (Example: It's round. It bounces. You can throw it. It's a ball!)

The words I said about each object helped you know what it was. You listened carefully to my words. We'll learn today that we can listen carefully to the words of Jesus.

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS' WORDS MATTER.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS'—*Point to the sky* **WORDS**—

Point to your mouth. **MATTER.**—

Give a thumbs up.



10:45 Service

Belief

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:
God, we love You. Thank You for loving us and sending Jesus for us. Help us learn about Jesus' words and why they matter. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Read the book

The Wise and Foolish Builders

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

—Luke 10:27a

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you:

LOVE—Give yourself a hug.

THE LORD YOUR GOD—Point up.

WITH ALL YOUR HEART.—Put your hands over your heart.

- **LUKE 10:27a**—Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Why do you think God wants us to love Him?**
- **How can you show your love to God?**



Identity

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for leading them even when things are hard.

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to teach us. Please help us remember that Jesus' words matter. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you always know how much God loves you—from the top of your head to the tips of your toes! May you feel God's big strength, experience His great joy, and sense His perfect peace. May you trust in Jesus as you become exactly who He created you to be!

Closing Activity: Stand on the Rock

SUPPLIES: brown or gray construction paper (6–8 sheets), scissors (prep only), tape, wooden blocks or magnetic tiles

Before the kids arrive, cut jagged edges on the construction paper to make them look like rocks. Tape them close to one another in an open area of your floor.

In the story Jesus told, the wise builder built his house on a rock. Let's practice staying on some rocks in this game. Invite the kids to jump from "rock" to "rock" on the floor. Once the kids are done, they can use blocks or magnetic tiles to build on the rocks.