



## 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.*

#### Curiosity Activity: 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 children 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?**



## Faith

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.*

#### Craft: Build It on the Rock

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), coloring utensils, glue sticks, kid-safe scissors (optional)

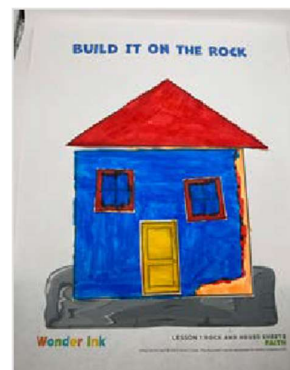
**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Rock and House Sheets](#) (1 set per kid)

Before the kids arrive, print one set of the Rock and House Sheets per kid. Cut out the shapes ahead of time, or let the kids cut out the shapes.

#### BUILD IT ON THE ROCK

**In God's big story today, we learned that Jesus wants us to make wise choices and listen to His words. When we do that, it's like we're building on a firm foundation—just like the wise person who built his house on the rock. A foundation is what a house sits on. We can build our lives on the foundation of God's words. You're each going to get to build your very own house on a rock! Give each child a set of shapes. Set out the glue sticks and coloring utensils**

Invite kids to “build” (or glue) and then decorate their houses with the coloring utensils. They can glue the house shapes to the “Build It on the Rock” page so that the rock picture is underneath the house. As the kids are working, talk more about how we can make wise choices and follow Jesus—just like the wise builder from Jesus' parable!





## 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:** tan paper (at least 1 sheet per kid), gray paper (at least 1 sheet per kid)

Set out tan and gray sheets of paper on the floor, spread out around the room.

**We're talking about remembering Jesus' words and obeying Him. When we do that, we are like wise builders who build their houses on the rock. When we don't listen to Jesus' words and obey Him, we are like foolish builders who build their houses on the sand. The tan paper is like the sand, and the gray paper is like the rocks.**

**I'll say some phrases, and if it's something that's wise and follows Jesus' words, run to a rock paper (gray) and stand on it. If I say something that's not wise and doesn't follow Jesus' words, run to a sand paper (tan) and stand on it.**

Say the following phrases and encourage the kids to run to rock or sand papers after each one:

- Read the Bible
- Share with someone in need
- Steal a toy from a friend
- Tell others about Jesus
- Help someone who is hurt
- Make fun of someone
- Pray for someone
- Worship God
- Push someone down
- Obey your parents

## 10:45 Service