

3-6 | January 18

**Bible Story:** The Wise and Foolish Builders • *Matthew 7:24-27 (Supporting: John 10:27-28)*

**Bottom Line:** Practice hearing from God.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* • 1 Timothy 4:8 Nlrv

## 1. Opening Activity

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray for those who have already discovered a relationship with Jesus and are following Him. Pray that the Spirit would change them, continuously renewing their hearts and minds so they can be more like Jesus. Pray for those who haven't yet taken a step of faith. Ask God to begin to draw them in and to use the time your group spends together to reach those who don't yet have a relationship with Jesus.*

### What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container

### What You Do:

- Welcome the kids with a high-five or fist bump.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Show the kids a hand pattern by demonstrating the motions (e.g., fists, hand roll, fists, hand roll).
- Say, "Follow the plan!" and lead the kids in doing the actions in the order you showed.
- Change the pattern and repeat.

### What You Say:

"You are great at following the plan! It's important to pay attention to the directions to get it right. **[Transition]** In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus tells us about a plan that is the most important one to follow. Let's go find out what it is!"

### Inclusive Pro-Tips

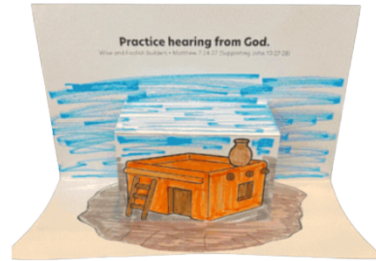
- Allow kids to create their own plan by doing their own set of motions.

[Lead group to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

## 2. Wise House

### What You Need:

- ☐ Bible, marked at Matthew 7:24-27
- ☐ “Wise House” Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Scissors



### Inclusive supplies:

- ☐ Pre-cut “Wise House” Activity Pages

### What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Matthew 7:24-27 and read the story to the kids.
- Give each kid a “Wise House” Activity Page and make coloring supplies available.
- As they color the house and the foundation on the rock, review the Bible Story. Ask questions like:
  - “Who remembers what the wise builder built his house on?” (*the rock*)
  - “And what did the foolish builder build his house on?” (*the sand*)
  - “What happened when the big storm came?” (*The house that was built on the sand fell, but the house built on the rock stood strong!*)
- Make the scissors available.
- Once the kids are done coloring, guide them through the steps of cutting and folding to create their own pop-up house.

### What You Say:

“These look amazing! You all built a strong house on a rock, just like the wise builder.

“Jesus told this story to teach us that listening to His words and doing them is like building on a rock. When we read the Bible and do what it says, we are building a strong faith. And the first step to doing what God says is hearing what God says. So we can **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God.**”

### Inclusive Pro-Tips

- Pre-cut a few “Wise House” Activity Pages for kids who may struggle with scissors.
- Offer adaptive crayons or grips for coloring.

### 3. Cup Tower

#### What You Need:

- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Paper plates x2

#### What You Do:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a stack of plastic cups.
- Challenge them to work together to build the tallest tower they can.
- After they have built their towers, give one person from each team a paper plate.
- Explain that a big “storm” is coming.
- Have the kid who has the paper plate use the paper plate to fan their tower and see how strong it is.
- Talk about what made their towers strong or what made them fall over.
- Let them try to build again, using what they learned to make their tower even stronger.

#### What You Say:

“Great job, builders! It took teamwork to build those towers. We learned that a strong base is really important!

“In our story, Jesus said that hearing His words and doing them is like building your life on a rock—a strong foundation.

“And the first part of doing what God says is hearing what God says! We learned today that there are three main ways God speaks to us: God speaks to us and tells us who He is through the Bible. He speaks to us through other people who love Him. And He speaks to us through His Holy Spirit, who lives inside of us and tells us ways to make our world look more like God’s Kingdom. Like when He says, ‘That girl looks lonely. Why don’t you invite her to play with you?’

“God wants us to **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God**. And we can hear from Him in so many ways!”

### 4. Pray

“Dear God, thank You that You speak to us in lots of ways. Teach us to listen to You and to do what You say. We love You so much, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”