

Session 20

The parable of the two foundations

The children realize that their lives should be built on God, the eternal Rock and not on temporary things.

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-28 (Also Luke 6:47-49)

Resources:

- ◆ 2 big flat dishes wherein the foundation of two different houses can be built
- ◆ 3 Big rocks in a container
- ◆ A container with sand
- ◆ 2 Polystyrene cups that you have drawn on windows and doors
- ◆ Roofs can be made from cardboard
- ◆ Bottle of water
- ◆ Words like explained in the session (can be laminated or can be rewritten on cardboard or plastic)
- ◆ Jenga set/ wooden blocks or boxes for children to build towers
- ◆ Enough stones so that each child can decorate
- ◆ Koki's/paint to decorate the stones



WELCOME

The children are divided into groups. Each group gets several blocks/boxes. Then see which group can build the highest tower before it falls over.



WORSHIP

Sing the **theme song** on which you decided for this term and do the **settle down prayer** as in session 15.



WORD

Who of you like experiments? Today we are going to do a fun house-building experiment. But it's not so simple! We'll have to see which house can withstand the storm and rising flood waters.

If we want to build a house that is good and strong, we need to think about the foundation. What is a foundation? The foundation is built underneath the ground. Then the house is built on top of it. *(Put two dishes on the table so that the children can see them clearly.)*

People build houses on different types of foundations. If we build our lives only on things that makes us happy, it might not stand strong against the storms that life brings us.

- Some people build their lives on AFFLUENCE. They think that if they can have enough money they will be happy and strong. Do you think it is a good foundation? We need money, but it must never be the most important thing to us. If money is the most important thing to you, it can be like building your house on sand (Throw a little sand in the dish and glue some words there.)



- Some people try to do a lot of things so that other people will think they're good enough and cool. They think POPULARITY will make them happy. Children think that if they are in the best sport teams or wear the coolest clothes that they can get other peoples' attention and be happy. If this is important to you, it can also be like building your house on sand. *(Put more sand in the dish and add more words.)*
- Some people think that if they can keep doing things that make them look good it will make them happy. They think that life is ALL ABOUT THEM. Many children think that they need certain things like video games, cellphones or laptops and don't think about helping others. They think that pleasure will make them happy, but it is another foundation made of sand. *(Put more sand in the dish and add more words.)*

The Bible teaches us that people who build their lives on these types of things are quite foolish. It is much better to build your life on something that is sure. God wants to be the Rock that you can build your life on. We can look at 3 things that God wants to give you.

- The first is FAITH. *(Put the first stone in the dish and add words.)*
- God wants you to believe in Him as your only Lord and Saviour. We have all sinned and can't save ourselves. Jesus died for our sins on the cross and defeated death. Acts 16:3 says: "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." If you believe this, the God will also give you eternal life. This can truly make you happy.
- The second is HOPE. *(Put the second stone in the dish and add words.)* To hope in God means to know that He is always with you and will help you with anything that feels difficult or tough. Hebrews 13:5b says: "The Lord is my helper."
- The third is LOVE. *(Put the third stone in the dish and add words.)* You can know that God loves you very much, just as you are. Jeremiah 31:3: "I love you with an unending love." When you accept this love and share it with others, it's like building your life on a rock.

People who build their lives on these things are wise. The Bible says that wisdom starts with serving the Lord. To serve Him means that He is the most important in your life.

We have two dishes here with two different types of foundations. We are now going to put two different houses on top of them. *(Place the polystyrene cup-houses on the sand and on the rock.)*

Now comes the test: Which one will withstand the storm? Remember that we said that the houses are like our lives. What type of challenges in our lives can feel like storms? *(Give the children time to answer.)* Yes, it can be like when our mom is ill and has to go to the hospital. It can happen that your mom or dad doesn't have work and can't buy what your family needs. Things like these can be very difficult. *(When children name something, give the other children a chance to pray for them.)*

So let's do the test. *(Put the water in the dish and stir it with your hand so that there is enough movement. Let the children react.)* Oh, no! What happened to the house that was built on sand? It couldn't withstand the floodwater!

Now let's see what happens to the house that was built on rock. *(Pour water into the other dish with stones and stir it with your hand.)* What happens to the house that was built on rock? Yes, it stayed put!

You can know that you will be strong in difficult times when you have built your life on God. You can know that He is always with you and always hears your prayers. 2 Samuel 22:2 says: "The Lord is my Rock, my safety and my Saviour."

The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:

1. I wonder what type of storms we can experience in our lives.
2. I wonder what it means when the Bible says that the Lord is our Rock.
3. I wonder what it means when the Bible says that the Lord is my safety.
4. I wonder what it means when the Bible says the Lord is our Saviour.



WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

✍ The children each get a rock and paint three symbols on them. They can also add the words:

Faith (picture of a cross)

Hope (picture of an anchor)

Love (picture of a heart)

✍ They can write on the stone 2 Samuel 22:2:

2 Samuel 22:2

The Lord is my Rock

my safety

And my Saviour

In case there aren't any rocks available they can do it on paper with crayons.

✍ Picture to colour in.

✍ For older children: Read Ps 62 and write all the words that describe God as Rock. Arrange them to look like a rock.

Benediction

The children form small groups of 3 or 4 and pray for each other. They can pray that God will help them to build their lives on Him.

Affluence

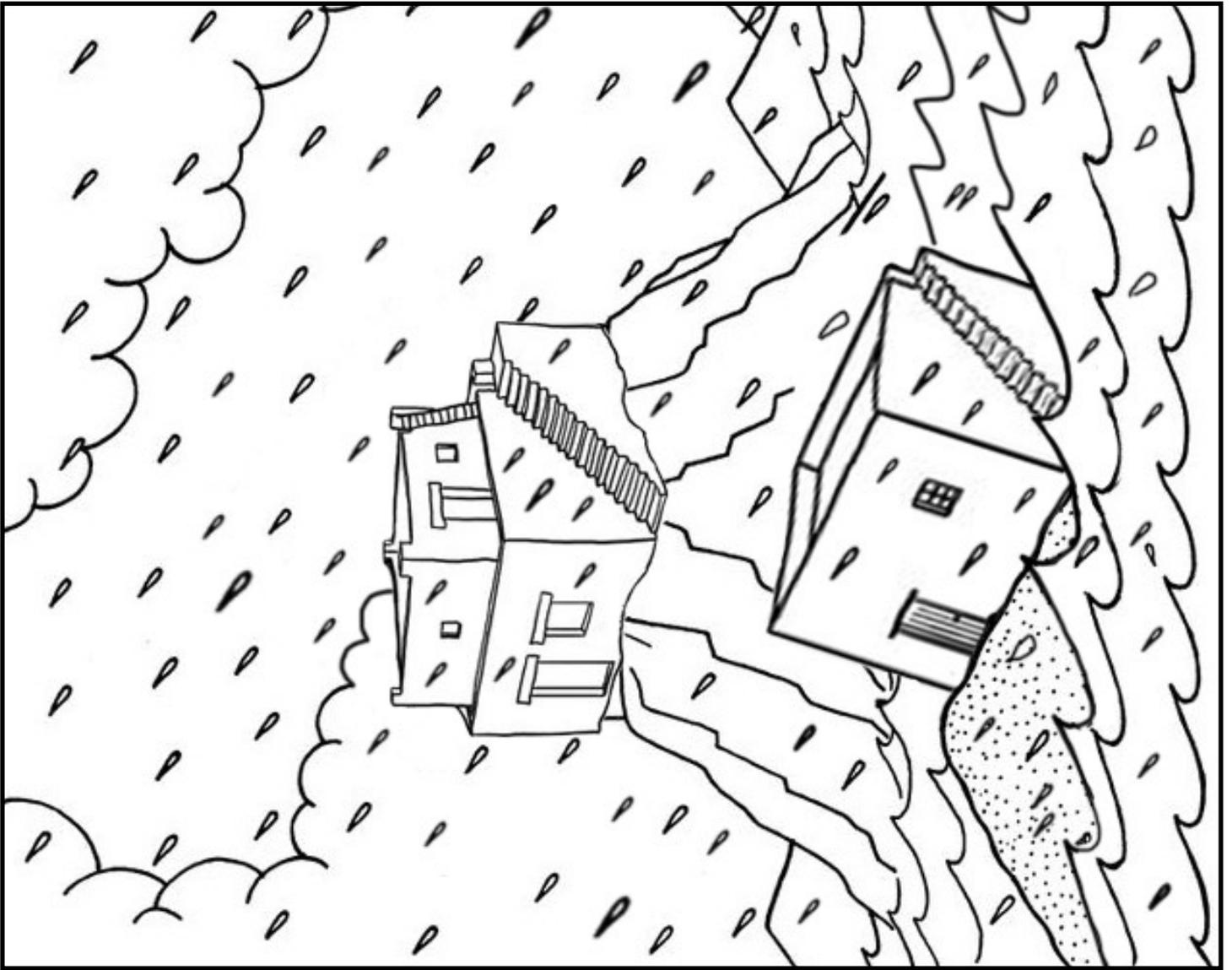
Popularity

All about me

Faith

Hope

Love



MIGHTY ROCK
PSALM 62
SALVATION **FORTRESS** **POWER** **hope**
REFUGE

Trust in him at all times, pour out your hearts to him.

~ REST ~