



## WEEK 2

# The Wise and Foolish Builders

**Bible Story:** The Wise and Foolish Builders • *Matthew 7:24-27*

**Bottom Line:** You can HEAR from God.

**Memory Verse:** “Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.” *Hebrews 12:2a (NirV)*

**Life App:** Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

## ACTIVITY 1. Build This!

ALL SUPPLIES ARE IN YOUR BOX

**What You Need:** Dice, craft sticks, markers – **save dice for week 3 also**

### What You Do:

- Divide the group into teams of two or three kids. IF YOUR CHILD IS ALONE, YOU PLAY AGAINST THEM OR TIME THEM TO SEE IF THEY CAN BEAT THEIR TIME
- Give each team five or six dice.
- Ask teams to use the dice to build a tower on the table.
- Ask if they found it challenging to build the tower.
- Give each kid a craft stick to hold in their mouth.
  - If you want to make sure craft sticks don't get shared, kids can write their names on their craft sticks.
- Challenge teams to take turns to create a dice tower on the end of a craft stick while a teammate holds the craft stick in his or her mouth.
- Ask the group if this was more challenging than building the tower on the table. Why or why not?

### What You Say:

“The tower we built on the table is like the wise man in the story who built his house on the rocks. The tower—like the house—is strong and stable. When we try to build a tower on something unstable, it is like building a house in the sand; it falls easily. Jesus tells us this story of the builders to remind us that God is using the Bible to communicate with us. Reading the Bible is a way **[Bottom Line] you can HEAR from God**, and when you listen to the stories in the Bible and use God's Word to help you make choices, you are a wise person, just like the builder who built his house on solid rock.”

## AMAZING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER KIDS

If you have 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup> graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- How do you know what God wants you to do?
- We believe God speaks through His Word, the Bible. What do you “hear” Him saying to you in the story of the wise and foolish builders?
- In what ways can you pay closer attention to what God is saying this week?

## ACTIVITY 2. Take a Snapshot

ALL SUPPLIES ARE IN YOUR BOX

**What You Need:** Aluminum foil, permanent markers

**What You Do:**

- **Give** each kid a 10-inch section of foil.
- **Ask** kids to write their initials on one side of the foil using a permanent marker.
- **Direct** everyone to GENTLY press the foil around the OUTSIDE of their ear to create an impression, making sure the side with their initials is toward their ear, not facing outward.
- **Help** kids carefully remove the foil without reshaping it and place it on the floor or table so that the side with their initials is facing down.
- **Ask** everyone to turn around as you rearrange the foil pieces.
- **Tell** everyone to turn back around.
- **Point** to one of the “ears” and ask kids to guess whose it is.
- **Turn** it over to reveal the initials of the person it belongs to, and hand it to that person.
- **Continue** until each person has their own foil ear back.
- **Invite** kids to think of ways they believe we HEAR God speak to us.
  - Let everyone indicate whether they agree or have had that same experience by placing their foil ear in the circle or by wearing it.
- If your group is reluctant to share, you can read from the list below and let them use their foil ears to vote on whether they feel the statement is correct.
  - God speaks to us by spelling things in the clouds.
  - We hear from God when we read the Bible.
  - God uses people we trust and who follow Him to speak to us.
  - God speaks with a really low voice that sort of echoes.
  - When leaders in the church teach or preach, God can speak to us.
  - God speaks to me in my dreams.
- **Collect** the foil ears and dispose of them in the trash.

**Wrap Up and Say:**

“Instead of speaking to us in clouds, dreams, or a deep voice, God has chosen to give us what He wants us to know in the Bible. When we want to hear from God, that’s the place to go. Reading the Bible and learning from those who follow Jesus are the best ways to find out what God has to say. If you want God’s help in making wise choices, take a closer look at what’s written in the Bible. Ask your church leaders and other adults who follow God to help you understand when something doesn’t make sense. If you listen that way, you’ll hear God’s voice loud and clear.”

***[Make It Personal] (Share a way you hear from God. Maybe you hear God as you do a daily devotion each morning or memorize verses. Or maybe you have a friend who is a follower of Jesus and you hear God when you pray for each other and help each other know God’s Word better.)***

## ACTIVITY 3. Can You Hear Me Now?

### ALL SUPPLIES ARE IN YOUR BOX

**What You Need:** Bible, “Can You Hear Me Now?” Activity Pages, paper cups, string, tape, permanent marker (adult use)

#### What You Do:

- Help kids get into pairs. If you have a mix of ages, pair older kids with younger ones. **IF YOUR CHILD IS ALONE, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE THEIR PARTNER.**
- Give each pair four cups, two strings, and a “Can You Hear Me Now?” Activity Page.
- Show kids how to thread one end of their string up through the bottom of each cup.
- Guide kids to tie a knot at each end of their strings. Provide help as needed.
- Tell kids to GENTLY pull their strings until the knots are at the bottoms of the cups.
- Guide kids to tape the ends of the strings to the (inside) bottoms of the cups. This will help keep them in place.
- As kids make their phones, print their names on them with the permanent marker.
- Lead each pair to pick up one of their “phones,” with each partner holding one of the cups.
- Guide them to walk slowly apart until the string connecting the cups is straight and slightly tight. (Instruct them not to pull so hard that they pull the knot through the cup.)
- Lead one partner to put their cup over their ear while the other partner talks into their cup.
- Can they hear their partners talking? How quietly can one partner talk so the other partner can still hear them?  
*Troubleshooting: If kids can't hear each other, their string may not be taut enough.*
- Lead kids to switch roles.
- Next, open the Bible to Hebrews 12 and lead partners to say the memory verse to each other.
- You can say the verse phrase by phrase, guiding kids to “echo” you.
- Lead kids to switch roles and repeat.
- *TIP: To “pack” the telephones (to make mobile phones?) for travel home, guide kids to tuck the string into one cup and then nest the other cup inside the first.*

*How does it work? (An explanation for kids):* Your voice vibrates, or wiggles, the air inside the cup, which makes the bottom of the cup vibrate. These vibrations travel to the string and then across the string and into the bottom of your partner's cup. This makes the air inside their cup vibrate. When the vibrations reach their ear, their ear and their brain turn the vibrations into sound!

#### What You Say:

“Today we’re learning that **[Bottom Line] you can HEAR (cup hand to ear) from God.** One way you can hear from God is by learning what Jesus said and did. How can you learn what Jesus said and did? (*I can come to church and listen to Bible stories; I can read my Bible or have someone read it to me.*) Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are four books of the Bible called the Gospels. The Gospels are filled with stories about how Jesus lived and what He taught. It’s pretty incredible that 2000 years after Jesus walked the earth, you can still read what He said! Even though He’s not standing right in front of you, **[Bottom Line] you can HEAR (cup hand to ear) from God!** Wow!

“So, remember to keep looking to Jesus. Keep learning what He said and what He did. And when you believe in Jesus, God gives you His Spirit to help you make wise choices and to love others like He does. You may not understand all of this now, and that’s okay. Just keep looking to Jesus. Because when you look to Jesus, **[Bottom Line] you can HEAR (cup hand to ear) from God!**”

## ACTIVITY 4. WRAP UP w Focus Notebooks and 3D glasses

**What You Need:** Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) and markers

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a Focus Notebook
- Show kids how to use the 3D glasses to focus on the pages in the notebook.
- Explain each week you will use the Focus Notebooks as part of prayer time.
- Ask if anyone remembers the Bottom Line for today. (*Encourage kids to use the glasses and look on page six to read the Bottom Line for today.*)
- Ask kids to turn to page seven in their Focus Notebooks.
- Ask kids to write on the top of page seven, "God, I HEAR You when . . ." *Note: If you have younger kids, you can pre-write it for them, or quickly write it for them in the moment.*
- Encourage kids to finish the sentence with a way they can hear from God.
- Give kids the freedom to use words or drawings to finish the sentence.
- Challenge kids to write (in their Focus Notebook) a prayer to God asking for help to hear what He has to say.

### What You Say:

"What are some of the ways [**Bottom Line**] you can HEAR from God? (*Allow kids to answer. Be prepared to offer an example or two, such as: through the Bible, from the stories of Jesus, by focusing on what God has created*). Let's pray and thank God for all the ways He communicates with us.

"God, You are everywhere! You are with us no matter what! You want us to know You! You are communicating to us through the Bible and the stories of Jesus. Even the sounds around us point to Your creativity—the singing of the birds, the crashing of waves, the barking of a dog. Thank You for listening to us, and thank You for (*fill in here with some examples of ways kids said they hear from God*). We love You! Amen!"

(Put Focus Notebooks back in box for next week)