



## Jesus is Our Firm Foundation

Matthew 7:13-28

### God Statement: Jesus is Our Firm Foundation

KEY VERSE:

**“I have given you an example, you should do as I have done for you.”**

**John 13:15 NIRV**

## CHECK-IN

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.*

*As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you've completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.*

*If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.*

*If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.*

*Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!*

## CONNECT WITH KIDS

*Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.*

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

**The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:**

When a child feels...*(most of the time)*

**SAFE:** physically and emotionally

**SEEN:** known and understood

**SOOTHED:** calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

**(10 minutes)**

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### DISCUSS: Jesus is Our Firm Foundation

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Firm Foundation.

**Say:** Do you like building with blocks? Sometimes we build up a big tower of blocks and they fall right down. We need to build it nice and sturdy. Our tower needs a firm foundation. We want to build our lives on Jesus. He is our firm foundation.

### MAKE: Exploring foundations, sand, rocks and water

**Supplies:** sand, rocks, tub, 2 small houses, a small pitcher of water

**Directions:** Let 2 or 3 at a time explore the tub with the items inside. After they have worked for a while, help them build a small sand pile and put a small house on it. Then build a small pile of the rocks. Balance the house on that foundation. Then pour the water over both foundations. Watch what happens. You could do this as a group activity.

**Say: While you are working with each child:**

- Is the sand firm or soft? Is the rock firm or soft?

- What happens when the water is poured on the sand? What happens when the water is poured on the rocks?
- I wonder how we can make Jesus our firm foundation.

## CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

*Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.*

*Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."*

## LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

*After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time. .*

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

**Offering – ask:** Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

## WORSHIP

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder**.

- *The Wise Man Builds his House upon the Rock*
- *Oh Be Careful Little Eyes What you See*

## READ A BIBLE STORY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!*

This week, read about a story about the Wise Man and the Foolish Man

**BIG IDEA:**

**A firm foundation will hold up the house. A soft foundation will make the house fall down. We want to build our lives on Jesus, our firm foundation.**

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

**BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)**

***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is our Firm Foundation***

*Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.*

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a little spoon or shovel.***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? A shovel? Are you playing in the sand? **Hamilton nods.** How fun! Our story is about sand and rocks. Jesus told His friends this story. Want to listen as we read it?

**Read the Firm Foundation from Matthew 7:24-28 below.**

So then, Jesus said: everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock.

- The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock.
- But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash."
- Jesus finished saying all these things. The crowds were amazed at his teaching.

**Say:** Let's sing our song again. (The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock)

**Say:** How can we build our foundation of our life? Listening to God. Obeying Him. Following His ways.

**SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)**

*This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.*

We are learning that God/Jesus is Statement/Lesson Title. (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

### **WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

***Encourage class to sit quietly.***

**Say:** Let's ask Jesus how we can build our lives on Him. **Pray:** Jesus, how can we build our lives on you? Some ways we can build our lives on Jesus, our firm foundation, are: coming to church, listening to God, reading the Bible. That helps us be firm in Jesus.

### **BLESSING (1 minute)**

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

**Say:** Friends, may you always remember that following the words of Jesus is a very good thing to do.

## **CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

**(Until parents pickup)**

### **PLAY: Color Sheet**

***Supplies: crayons and color sheet of building house on firm foundation***

**Directions:** Sit down and color together. Talk about the rain, the houses and how we can build our lives on our firm foundation in Jesus.

## **PLAY!**

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!*

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

**Suggestions of activities:**

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

## CHECK-OUT

### (end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"