

The Two Houses

Bible Verse

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. Matthew 7:24

Did You Know?

We begin our look at some of the stories Jesus told with the story of two builders. The parable of the wise and foolish builders is presented in Matthew as part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The story is found in a similar form in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus told of two builders who each built a house. One builder built his house on rock, and the other builder chose to build his house on sand. Then the rains came. Those listening to Jesus' story originally were familiar with the conditions of the wadi, a desert area that is dry in summer and flooded in winter. Houses built on the sand in this area would only last until the heavy rains flooded the area.

The parable Jesus told about the wise and foolish builders illustrates that wisdom is more than knowledge. In the parable, the wise builder built a house upon rock, while the foolish builder built his house on sand. When it rained heavily and floods came, the house on the sand was washed away, while the house on the rock remained. Both builders had certainly encountered sand and rock, and were aware of the properties of each. The wise builder used his knowledge to make a good decision. Wisdom is using what you know to make good decisions.

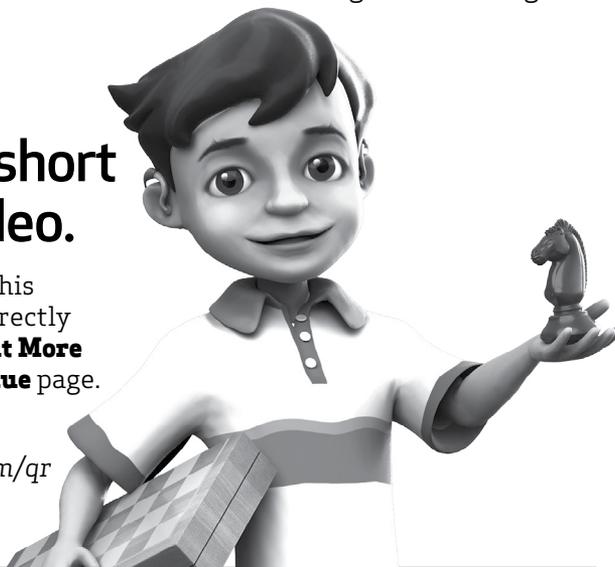
Jesus' explanation of this parable was to compare to the wise builder those who heard his words and followed them. Those who heard Jesus' teachings and ignored them were likened to the foolish builder. Everyone who heard Jesus' teachings had the same knowledge. Each person makes a choice about using that knowledge.

Meet Armen and learn about Armenia in this short introductory video.



You can scan this QR code—go directly to the **Find Out More About Deep Blue** page.

Or visit www.deepbluekids.com/qr to discover more about Armen and Armenia.



Bible Story

Matthew 7:24-27

Anchor Point

We can learn from the stories Jesus told.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- Welcome
- Kids Stuff: Faith-Builders Kit
- Exploration Station: Building Blocks
- DIVE DEEPER:**
- Bible Story Time
- Experience the Story: The Two Houses

Look It Up!

My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- Life Connection: Wise Builder
- Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Armenian Cross
- Craft Activity: Graham-Cracker House
- Spiritual Practice: Hard Work

WORSHIP:

- Gather, Sing, and Sign
- Praise and Reflect

 Requires preparation.



"My Stories for You" can be found on the DVD or on the Annual Music CD.

The official Deep Blue Annual Music CD contains 19 new songs that were written specifically for Deep Blue! Buy one for your Sunday-school room, or one for each child to play at home or in the car!

You can order online at: www.cokesbury.com. ISBN: 9781630888305.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play "My Stories for You" and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: FAITH-BUILDERS KIT

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 11-14, crayons or markers, pencils, scissors, staplers (optional), tape

- Distribute Faith-Builders Kit.
- Let children cut out the pieces of the tool kit.

ASK: What kinds of tools do you need to build a strong faith?

- Encourage children to write their ideas on the tools, then they can wear the tool belts.

EXPLORATION STATION: BUILDING BLOCKS

Supplies: building blocks

SAY: In the Bible story today, houses were built on two different foundations. The foolish man built a house upon sand. But the wise man built a house upon the rock.

- Invite children to use the building blocks to build a structure.
- Let children spend time creating and playing with the blocks.

ASK: What makes a strong foundation? What is the best way to build a solid structure?

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 5, then watch video.

ASK: On what does a wise man build his house? On what does a foolish man build his house?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE TWO HOUSES

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 5, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 7:24-27, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the four parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: A verse in the Book of Proverbs teaches about a wise woman building a house.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Proverbs 14:1.

ASK: How can you build a strong faith?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: Our faith needs a strong foundation. A foundation is what holds a structure or building together.

ASK: What helps you have a strong faith? Who helps you to have a strong faith?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: WISE BUILDER

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: The Bible story today teaches us about being a wise builder. Let's learn more about how things are built.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Wise Builder.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: ARMENIAN CROSS

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 36, chalk, world map or globe, paint pens, stones or rocks

 Photocopy p. 36 for each child.

SAY: Today we learn the Deep Blue Kids will travel to Armenia.

ASK: Who can find Armenia on the map?

SAY: Armenia was the very first Christian nation. The country has a special cross they use to represent their faith.

- Show children the picture of the Armenian cross.

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OPTION

Let children stack or hold rocks as you tell the story.





≈ TIPS ≈

You also can include candy to embellish the houses.

Be aware of food allergies.

SAY: Oftentimes, Armenians will carve crosses into stones. We are going to draw the cross on a stone. Then we can keep the stone to remember Armenia and the Deep Blue Kids.

- Distribute the Armenian cross, stones, chalk, and paint pens.
- Invite children to draw the cross on a stone.
- Encourage them to take their crosses home.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: GRAHAM-CRACKER HOUSE

Supplies: graham crackers, icing, heavy-duty paper plates (any size), pretzel sticks



Cut some of the graham crackers into triangles (for the house's roof).

- Let children build houses with graham crackers on paper plates. Use the icing as "glue" to hold the crackers together.
- Place the pretzel sticks on the corners or use them to cover the roof.
- Encourage children to be creative!
- Let them eat their houses when they have finished.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: HARD WORK



SAY: Builders are hard workers!

ASK: Was there a time when you worked really hard?

SAY: Having faith in God is also hard work! We have to continually build and work on our faith every day!

ASK: What kinds of things can you do to build up your faith?

SAY: This week, spend some time working on your faith. Say a prayer, talk with God, or do something kind for someone else. While having faith can be hard work, God is always there to be your solid foundation!

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Leader Guide—pp. 86 & 87, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)



Write Matthew 7:24 on the board (or on posterboard). Review the Unit 2 Bible verse American Sign Language, using pages 86 & 87 as a guide. Photocopy those pages for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song "My Stories for You" one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 2 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

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PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible, Class Stuff—pp. 12 & 21, envelope or file folder, scissors, tape

 Continue to display Matthew 7:24 on the board. Cut out model pieces (Model: Unit 2 Bible Verse) and store in envelope or file folder. Tape or write piece numbers on the backs of model pieces.

SAY: Today we learned how to be wise builders. This unit's Bible verse says, "Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock" (Matthew 7:24).

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Today we will find the first piece to build our house.

- Display model pieces, including base rectangle. Call on a volunteer to locate the base and place it on the surface.

SAY: Great job! Next week we will continue building our house on bedrock.

- Invite children to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for being our solid foundation and for teaching us to be wise builders. Amen.



≈ TIP ≈

Sing *The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock*:

The wise man built his house upon the Rock (x3)

And the rains came tumbling down.

The rains came down and the floods came up (x3)

But the house on the Rock stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand (x3)

And the rains came tumbling down.



The rains came down and the floods came up (x3)

And the house on the sand fell flat.

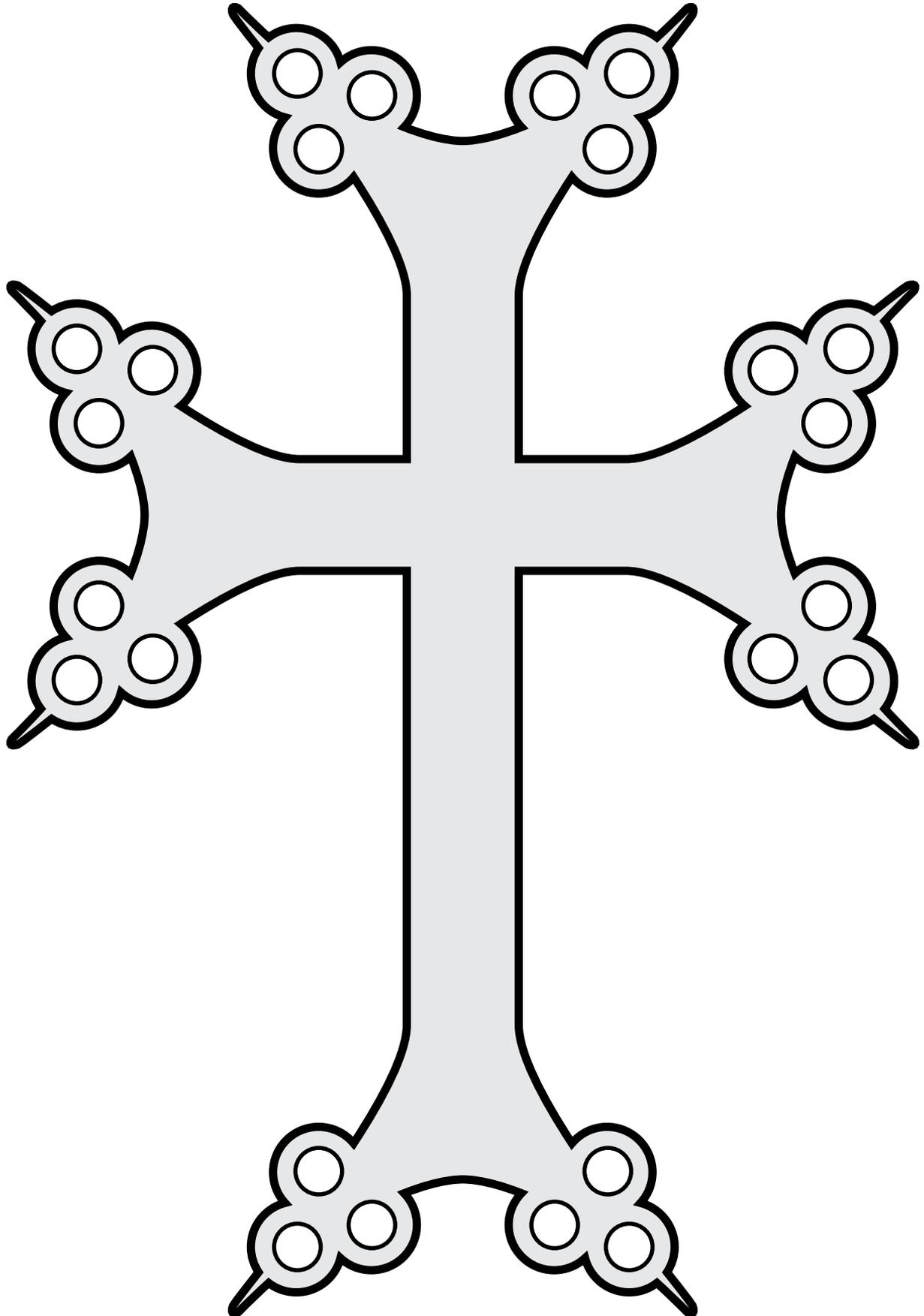
So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ (x3)

And the blessings will come down.

The blessings come down as your prayers go up (x3)

So build your life on the Lord.

Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Armenian Cross



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