

# KIDS WANNA KNOW: THE BIBLE

Elementary

## **PARENT BIBLE STUDY**

### **Read: Matthew 7:21-27**

Matthew chapter seven includes Jesus' concluding statements from The Sermon on the Mount. At the start of his preaching, he withdraws from a large crowd of people and sits on a mountainside with the 12 disciples. He then continues with very practical teaching on how we, his followers, are to live.

In his final charge, Jesus is clear that it isn't sufficient enough to just hear and believe his teachings are true and good, but we must *do* what they tell us to do (Matthew 7:21). He compares us to house builders and categorizes us as either wise or foolish based on how we structure our lives. The difference between the builders isn't what materials they're using to build or what they're trying to protect themselves from, it's all about the foundation they build on top of.

One definition of a foundation is "a lower portion of building structure that transfers its gravity loads to the earth." As you look at your life compared to the builders in Jesus' story, think about what it is that you are transferring your loads, or your burdens, onto. Is it something other than Jesus? If it is, then where do you need to trust God by changing your actions? Where do you need to not just hear Jesus' words, but actually put them into practice?

In The Message translation, Eugene Petersen interprets the foolish builder as a Christian who uses the right words in Bible studies, but doesn't actually work them into their life. When storms and challenges and disappointments hit them, they crumble and fall. Thankfully we serve a God that wants something better for us than that. He's a God that wants to be our foundation to fall upon so when we collapse, we collapse at his feet.

**In what areas of your life are you settling for shaky foundations of sand instead of a firm foundation in Christ?**

**Is there a specific action that Jesus gives in The Sermon on the Mount that you need to put into practice?**