

SERMON ON THE MOUNT: A SERIES IN MATTHEW

**Foundation****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

The Sermon on the Mount closes with Jesus giving a parable of one man who builds his house on the rock and another who builds his on sand. This is likely a well-known image for you, but it speaks volumes to the choice laid out before every human being. There is a way that leads to life, and one that leads to destruction — and only Jesus has the way to life. Please pray for the Spirit to speak this truth to you and the kids this week.

Big Idea: *Jesus is the only firm foundation we can build our lives on.*

Starter**Evidences of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything good, big or small, is from God. Take time to thank God together.
- Play:** If you have legos or building blocks, task the kids with building the largest tower they can. You may even put them into teams and set a time limit. See how high they can go before it topples over.
- Ask:** What was the most important part of your building? If you didn't have a solid foundation, how wobbly did it get as you got higher?

Sing Together

Story — from Matthew 7:24-29

At the end of the well-known *Sermon on the Mount* Matthew wrote down that Jesus spoke to a large crowd, Jesus finished with these words:

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Jesus had started the sermon by speaking blessings over the people and giving them a new identity; they were to be the salt of the earth and light of the world. Then he began to tell them about the best way to live as humans. They knew the Law passed down from their ancestors, but Jesus was showing them that God desired for them not to just follow rules but have transformed hearts which love God and love people. Then, Jesus gave a few warnings about people who would claim to teach what he taught or claim to follow him, but really have selfish motives at heart. After all of that, he ended with this illustration of building a home on sand or on rock.

Of course, like all things Jesus said, it had so much deeper meaning than just what they heard on the surface. Jesus was warning that the storms and winds of life will come, but that there is only truly one foundation firm enough to build our lives on so that we can stand through the storm; and that foundation is Jesus himself! If he is the foundation of our life, we will be able to stand through the hard things of this broken world. But if it's anything else, the storms of life may knock us down. Sometimes, people make it look like Jesus is their foundation, by going to church and doing the right things on the outside, but their motive in the heart might be something entirely different. We pray that Jesus would give us all new hearts that desire to make him the foundation of our lives!

Dialogue Questions: *[you may use some or all]*

- What other things do people base their lives on?
- What are some ways someone can look like their foundation is Jesus, but it may be something else?
- How can we make Jesus our foundation?

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, thank you for being our firm foundation. Thank you for giving us life and allowing us to find true life in your Son, Jesus. Help us to keep our lives built on him and nothing else. Fill us with your Spirit so we can trust in you more and more each day. Amen.

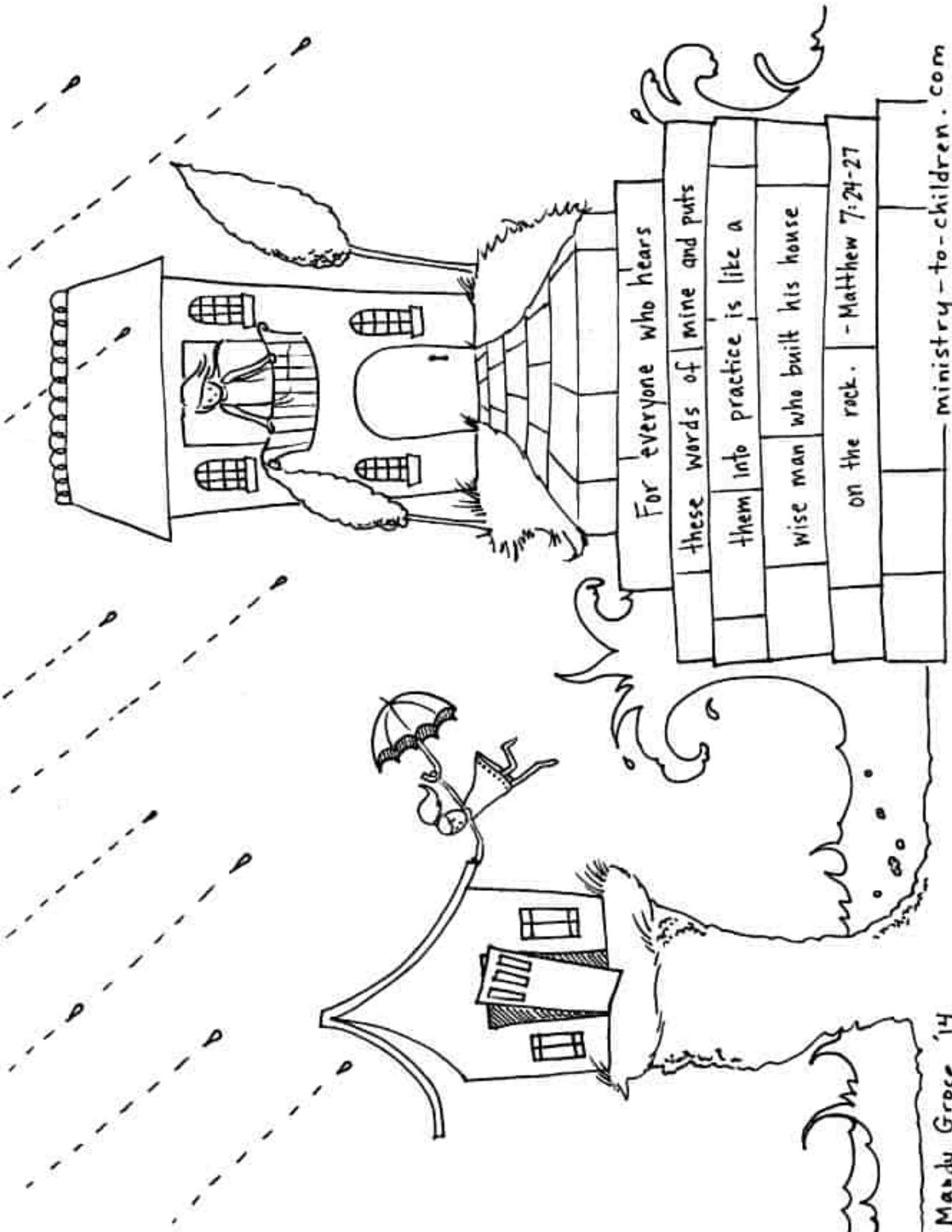
Craft:

- There is a coloring sheet attached

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Sabbath** rhythm.

One of the ways we find Jesus to be our foundation is by resting in him. So often we try and try really hard to do things in our own strength. What are some ways you and your family can pause and trust in Jesus this week?



For everyone who hears
these words of mine and puts
them into practice is like a
wise man who built his house
on the rock. - Matthew 7:24-27