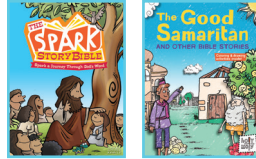


Summer Bible Story Activities

House on the Rock

Where to find the story of the House on the Rock

- Matthew 7:24-28
- *The Spark Story Bible: Family Edition* pages 250-253
- *The Good Samaritan and Other Bible Stories*



This week's activities

- Craft activities
 - Splatter Storm Paintings
 - Kids make paintings to remember that with Jesus we can stand up to the storms of life
 - Built on the Rock
 - Kids make their own little house on a rock to remember the importance of hearing Jesus and obeying Him
- Cooking activity
 - Edible Rocks
 - Kids make Edible Rocks to help them remember that God's love is rock solid
- Storytelling activity
 - Kids learn that God helps when things are not easy
- Coloring pages
 - Let kids color their way through the story of The House on the Rock

Making faith connections

Here are a few suggestions for ways you can enrich your child's engagement and learning with the story of The House on the Rock.

- Family conversations
 - What was the guy who built his house on a rock like?
 - What do you think Jesus meant by telling this parable to the people?
 - When we build our lives on Jesus we gain wisdom. What does it mean to have wisdom?
- Go on a walk around your neighborhood and look for sandy and firm soil. Review the story together as you walk.
- Have kids name three things they can do this week that would be wise.

A Prayer to Say Together

Strong God, thank you being rock-solid, loving us, and always being with us. Help us choose wisely and learn to grow in your ways. Amen.

Find more great stuff at sparkhouse.org



House on the Rock Craft Activity

Scripture Reference: Matthew 7:24–28 or pages 250-253 in *The Spark Story Bible: Family Edition*.

Activity Focus: With Jesus, I can stand up to the storms of life.

Read the parable of the House on the Rock together.

How would you feel if your house crashed down in a storm like the house that the foolish man built on sand? Allow all answers.

Let's stand up and put our hands above our heads as if we are a house. When I shout, "Storm!" I want you to wiggle all around, then crash down like the foolish man's house.

Storms are frightening, but there are other things that frighten us, too. Think about something that scares you. What does Jesus tell us will help us through these frightening things, these "storms of life"? (*listening to and obeying him*)

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus will be with you no matter what storms you have to face?

Splatter Storm Paintings

Supplies

- Drawing paper
- Cardstock
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Pie tins
- Acrylic craft paint in various colors
- Toothbrushes, 1 for each color of paint
- Newsprint or plastic tablecloth
- Paint shirts
- Small sponges (optional)

Set Up: Cover table with newsprint or a plastic tablecloth. Squirt a single color of craft paint into each pie tin and place a toothbrush into it. If possible, set up the paint tins in an area away from the place where kids will be seated while they cut out their stencils.

Activity Instructions

You are going to make splatter storm paintings. Your paintings will help illustrate how Jesus is with us in a storm—both real storms (with thunder and lightning) and other kinds of storms (like challenges at school and problems in our relationships with family and friends).

1. Give each kid a piece of cardstock, a pencil, and a pair of scissors. Have kids use the pencil to draw a simple shape of themselves and family members, one for each person. Then, have them cut out each shape.
2. Direct kids to arrange their shapes on a piece of drawing paper, then roll small pieces of masking tape and gently affix tape to the back of each shape. These shapes will act as stencils.
3. Have kids put on paint shirts before touching anything at the paint station.
4. When you're ready to paint, have kids dip the toothbrushes in the paint and splatter the drawing paper by shaking or flicking the brush toward the paper without touching the paper. Kids can move around to the various tins of paint until they have splattered plenty of paint on their paper, particularly around their stencils.
5. When they have finished, assist them as needed to gently remove the stencils. This can be done while the stencils are still wet if it is done carefully.

Option

Painting with sponges could be done instead of splattering paint with toothbrushes. Cut up small sponges and have kids carefully blot a sponge all around their stencils. This works best with just one color.

Follow up:

These paintings show how Jesus is with you in your scary storms of life. The splattering paint was like a storm, but the stencils protected the people. Everyone has storms in life, but no matter what happens, Jesus is with us.

Prayer Time

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes there are storms with scary thunder and lightning, but with you I stand firm.

Sometimes difficult things happen and I feel alone and afraid, but I know you are with me.

Thank you for helping me to stand firm.

Amen!

House on the Rock Craft Activity

Built on the Rock

Supplies

- Single-serving milk cartons, rinsed and dried
- Rocks or bricks large enough to support the milk carton
- Hot glue gun
- Electrical or painter's tape in a variety of bright colors
- Scissors
- Mat board

Set Up: Lay out supplies. Plug in the hot glue gun.

Activity Instructions

To remember the importance of hearing Jesus and obeying him, you are going to illustrate this parable. You will make your own little house and attach it to a rock.

1. Give each kid a rock or brick, an empty milk carton, and a pair of scissors.
2. **Begin by decorating your house. Cut doors and windows and color the house with the electrical tape. Add a roof by using the mat board.**
3. When kids have finished decorating their house, help them use the hot glue gun to affix it to their rock or brick.

While kids are decorating, lead a discussion about how God's Word is a solid rock for our lives. **What are some ways that we listen to Jesus? How does God's Word provide a strong foundation for us? What storms do we face in our lives? Do you think about God's Word when you have a choice to make?**

Option

After the houses are secured onto the rocks, provide additional craft supplies for further decorating such as yarn, lace, sequins, craft jewels, glitter glue, and stickers. Allow kids to give their houses more sparkle.

This art project is a symbol of how listening to Jesus and obeying him gives your life a solid foundation. In the same way that your house can survive a storm, your faith can stand up to a storm when you listen to Jesus and do what he says.

Prayer Time

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for sharing God's wisdom with us. We want to hear God's Word and obey it. We don't want to be like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. When the storms came, his house crashed down. No, we want to be like the wise man who built his house on the rock. When the storms came, his house stood firm. We know that our lives will have storms, too. That's why we need to listen to you and do what you tell us to do.

Amen!

House on the Rock Cooking Activity

Scripture Reference: Matthew 7:24–28 or pages 250-253 in *The Spark Story Bible: Family Edition*

Activity Focus: God's love is rock solid.

Read the parable of the House on the Rock together.

Jesus wants us to build our lives on rock instead of sand. What does he mean by this? (*God's Word is a solid, strong foundation, like a rock.*)

We can trust that God's love is rock solid. No matter what storms may come, God will always love us and hold us close.

Edible Rocks

Supplies

- Oven
- Measuring spoons and cups
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Microwave
- Can opener
- Mixing bowls, 2
- Spatulas, 2
- Cookie sheets, 2–3
- Pot holders, 2
- Turner
- Cooling rack

Ingredients (yields 24–30 “rock” cookies)

- ½ cup (113 g) butter or margarine, plus more for greasing the cookie sheets
- ½ cup (98 g) crushed pineapple, well-drained
- 1 cup (220 g) brown sugar, packed
- ½ teaspoon (2.5 mL) vanilla
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup (120 g) whole wheat flour
- 1 cup (125 g) all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon (5 g) baking soda
- 1 teaspoon (6 g) salt
- ½ cup (54 g) chocolate chips

Set Up: Preheat the oven to 375° F (190° C). Lay out supplies and ingredients.

Melt the ½ cup (113 g) butter in the microwave. Open the can of crushed pineapple and drain.

Activity Instructions

As a reminder of the rock-solid love God has for each one of us, we are going to make rocks we can eat. Actually, they are cookies. Rock-solid cookies. Let's get started!

1. Have kids thoroughly wash their hands.
2. Ask kids to grease the cookie sheets.
3. Have kids measure brown sugar into a mixing bowl, then take turns stirring in the melted butter with a spatula.
4. Instruct kids to measure vanilla and crack the egg into an extra measuring cup. Have them add it to the main mixing bowl and take turns stirring it with a spatula.
5. Then, have kids add wheat flour, all-purpose flour, soda, and salt into the extra mixing bowl and stir together. Then add it carefully into the main mixing bowl and stir until everything is moistened.
6. When this is complete, have kids add pineapple and nuts. Take turns stirring until these ingredients are just mixed in.
7. Have kids share the duty of dropping teaspoons of cookie dough onto the greased cookie sheets.
8. Bake each sheet for 7 minutes. Remove cookies from sheet with a turner and place on cooling rack.
9. While cookies are baking, kids can work together to clean the kitchen.

I want you to examine this edible rock cookie. Tell me how it reminds you of the parable we just read. (*It is hard like the rock where the man built his house. It is rock solid like God's love.*)

Now bite into it. What's it like to eat a rock? Allow all answers. Remind them to bite carefully..

Prayer Time

Dear God,

We are so glad Jesus taught us to be wise. We want our faith to be rock solid. We thank you for the yummy, edible rock cookies we made today.

They remind us that you can help our faith be rock solid.

We want to hear your Word and obey it so that our lives are built on the rock of your Word.

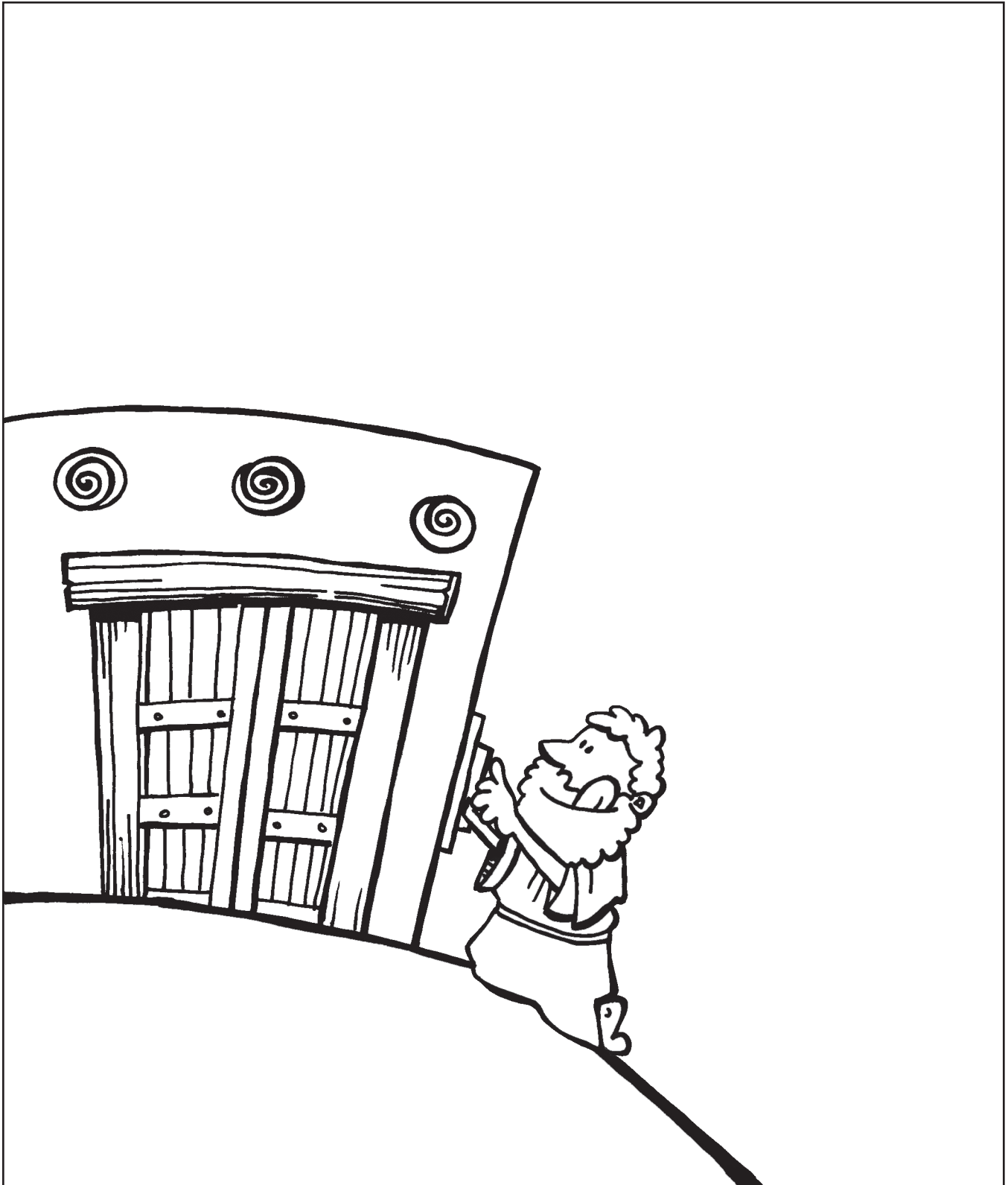
Amen.

House on the Rock



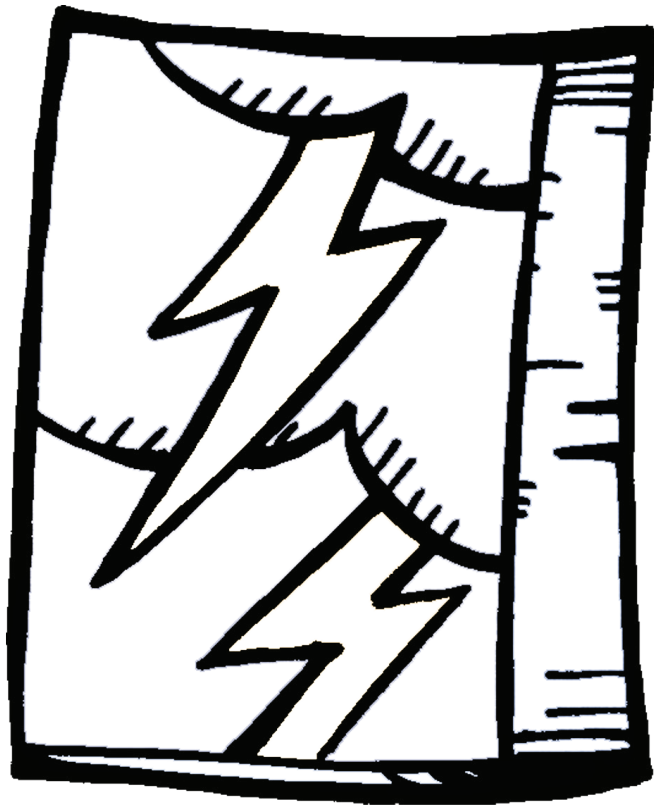
The silly person built a house on sand.

House on the Rock



The smart person built a house on a sturdy rock.

House on the Rock



Bad weather came. “Boom!” echoed the thunder as lightning streaked across the sky.

House on the Rock



The house on sand — crash! — it fell down!

House on the Rock



The house on the rock didn't fall down.

House on the Rock



The house didn't fall down, because the smart person had built it on a sturdy rock!

House on the Rock Storytelling Activity

Scripture Reference: Matthew 7:24–28 or pages 250-253 in *The Spark Story Bible: Family Edition*.

Focus: God helps when things are not easy.

Supplies

Rocks (5 per kid)

Read the parable of the House on the Rock together.

Give five rocks to each kid. **Let's see what things are hard in this story.** Read the story, one paragraph at a time, and talk about the hard things that happen in each paragraph. **In this story, or parable, that Jesus told, some hard things happened. Let's see if we can name the hard things in each paragraph. Each time we decide on a hard thing, put one of your rocks in a pile on the table** (or on the floor). End each paragraph with the words: **I wonder what was really hard in this paragraph.** Emphasize these hard things in each paragraph?

Paragraph #1: It was hard to sit on a rocky mountain and listen to Jesus.

Paragraph #2: Building a house is hard work. Listening to a scary storm outside is hard.

Paragraph #3: It's really hard when your house falls down.

Paragraph #4: Building a life for God is hard work.

Paragraph #5: It is hard to learn new ideas.

Wow! That was a lot of hard stuff in one story. Look at our pile of rocks. Ask kids to remember a time when something hard happened in their lives. **Jesus was a wonderful storyteller who helped listeners know how to trust God in hard times.**

Prayer Time

God,

Help us hear your words.

Help us to be wise in all our actions even when things might be hard.

Show us how to care for others and keep us safe.

Amen.

The Wise Man Built His House Song

The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock
And the rain came tumbling down

Oh, the rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
And the wise man's house stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
And the rain came tumbling down

Oh, the rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
And the foolish man's house went "splat!" [clap hands once]

So, build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
Build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
Build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
And the blessings will come down

Oh, the blessings come down
As your prayers go up
The blessings come down
As your prayers go up
The blessings come down
As your prayer go up
So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ.