

## The story of two builders

I wonder if you have been to the seaside recently? Or if you can remember going before?

What did it feel like when you were standing on the sand with the water swirling around your feet?

Or maybe you built a sandcastle - do you remember what happened when the tide came in?

Or maybe you have been to a stony beach where people have made pebble towers? How do the towers stand up?

Our Bible story today is about two builders, one wise and one foolish. Have a look at this video and see if you can work out what Jesus was saying when he told this story:

[https://youtu.be/CXWHLB1f6\\_U](https://youtu.be/CXWHLB1f6_U)



I wonder what you think Jesus was saying?

Let's have a look in the Bible and see what Jesus said.

You can find this story in Matthew, chapter 7, verses 24-27

I wonder what you think God is saying to you through this story?

The Bible gives us lots of help to become wise if we listen to what Jesus says. Understanding God's word helps us in our daily lives. God cares for us and doesn't want us to come to any harm. We are stronger when we listen to God and trust in what he says, it is like we are standing on a rock. If we rely on Jesus, he will not let us fall.

But when we build our lives on whatever we want, but not Jesus, it is like we are standing on the sand. Life can be hard and if the foundation we are standing on gets squishy, we will fall down. Living without Jesus means we will fall.

Read Psalm 62:2 - *"God alone is the mighty rock that keeps me safe"*

This is a great verse to learn and remember!

**Pray together:** if you can, find a stone or small rock to hold while you are praying. Spend a moment thinking, do you need more wisdom in a certain situation, to make the right choices? Are you going through stormy times at the moment? Do you have a friend who is finding things difficult at the moment?

Hold the stone in your hand, feel how solid and 'rock' like it is and think about Jesus being your rock. Talk to Jesus about how you are feeling and ask him to help you in whatever situation you are in. Ask Jesus to help your friend too if you have thought of someone.

Finish with a prayer together: *Lord Jesus, thank you for being our rock, thank you for all the promises you have made to us and that we can trust you in every situation. Please help us when things are difficult and keep us safe. Amen*

### **Activities to try:**

Reflection - Read Psalm 62:2 "*God alone is the mighty rock that keeps me safe*"

Think of ways that God keeps you safe. Think about how following Jesus and how what he says keeps you safe and helps you live a happy life.

Draw a picture that shows this, you might draw somebody sitting on a rock praying, or somebody sitting on a rock giving things away while someone else (not sitting on a rock!) is counting piles of gold. Or just draw a house on a rock! Write Psalm 62:2 on your picture.

Lego video - if you like Lego you might enjoy this video of the story. Maybe you could tell the story yourself using Lego? <https://youtu.be/kjoqMrFXx-k>

Junk modelling - could you make a model house and rocks out of junk? Or maybe make a miniature model; building a little house on a large stone? You could use this as a paperweight in your room to remind you to trust Jesus every day and in every situation. You could decorate the stone with Jesus' name.



Build a tower - How tall a tower can you build with building blocks or try building with spaghetti and mini marshmallows (or pieces of apple and cocktail sticks). Challenge other members of your family and see who can build the tallest tower or work together to build an amazing structure. Chat about building our lives on the words Jesus spoke, his promises and how he will always be with us.



Find out about the Leaning Tower of Pisa and the importance of good foundations

The "Leaning Tower of Pisa" had to be closed for almost 12 years in the 1990s for restoration work to stabilise the tower. In that time, they removed 110 tons of dirt, and reduced its famous lean by about sixteen inches. Why was this necessary? Well, the tower has been tilting further and further away from vertical for hundreds of years, to the point that the top of the 185-foot tower was seventeen feet further south than the bottom, and Italian authorities were concerned that if nothing was done, it would soon collapse. But what was the real problem? Not the design, the quality of materials or even the builders. The problem was what was underneath- the soft, sandy soil on which the city of Pisa was built was just not stable enough to support a monument of this size. The tower simply had no firm foundation.

