

On this Rock I will build My Church

Materials needed for each child:

Copy of craft page (teacher should cut rock from church building and pass out each piece as needed)

Blank paper (construction or copy paper)

Scissors

Glue stick

Pencil, marker, or crayon

Think about a foundation. When do you build a foundation? At the very beginning. If it is not strong, the whole building will fall down- maybe not right away, but over time. If our foundation is off; if our understanding of God is wrong at the very beginning, anything we add is wasting time and energy because it hasn't gotten off to the right start. So we want the right foundation. What is that foundation?

You know the story of the wise man who built his house on the rock? What do you remember?

Mt 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Why is rock a good foundation and not sand?

Here's another foundation verse:

1Pe 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded (or ashamed).

God has laid in Zion a precious cornerstone. The cornerstone is the stone on the corner that all the other stones are set to so that they are orderly. It is part of the foundation, and if it is off, all the others will be out of square. That stone is Christ.

1 Cor 3: 11 ¶ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Let's read another passage:

Matthew 16:13-18

13 ¶ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus is saying that there is a foundation that His church is built on. What is it? When Jesus said to Peter, “on this rock I will build my church” He was talking about the church being built on the understanding that is not from flesh and blood (flesh and blood did not reveal this... but my Father) that Jesus IS the Christ, the Son of the living God. Who Jesus is and knowing Him only by the Father, is the foundation of the church. It is the most important place to start.

Okay, so let’s build a foundation. Cut this rectangle into a rock shape; round off the top, if you want, but leave the bottom flat (cutting is optional). (*Pass out On this rock paper*). Have the kids glue the rock to a full sized sheet of paper, putting the glue only in the area below the words, so that the rock can be folded down like a flap.

Now what did we say the rock is? What did Peter say? “You are the Christ, son of the living God.” And what did Jesus say? “Flesh and blood did not reveal this, but my Father in heaven.” So the rock or foundation is the knowing of Jesus by the Father. Sometimes we call this the Revelation of Jesus. That means something that was there suddenly becomes known to us. All this time, Peter was thinking Jesus was a pretty good guy, maybe a prophet, maybe even someone greater. Suddenly his eyes are opened to see who Jesus really is. Everything we ever come to know about Jesus should start with us first seeing and knowing Jesus by the Father- not by our own ideas or understanding. Okay, so under the rock flap, let’s write the words “*Revelation of Christ*”.

So, what is built on this foundation? If knowing Jesus is all about you and Jesus, maybe the “house” built on the foundation is your house and now He has come to live in it with you. Sometimes we might think of it this way. Or maybe we will say that it is His house that you live in. These would be OUR ideas. Let’s see what the Bible says. What does Jesus tell Peter will be built on this foundation in the verse we read? The church. And what is the church?

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

This says that the church is Jesus’ body; He is the head.

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Now I’m going to paraphrase some other verses from Eph 5.

The Bible tells us the church is subject unto Christ (24), that Christ loves the church, and gave himself for it; He sanctified and cleaned it with the washing of water by the word, He brought it unto himself, glorious, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; holy and without blemish (25-27), and that the Lord nourishes and cherishes the church: (29)

So the Church is Jesus’ body and He treats it the way we would treat our own body-taking care of it, cleaning it, loving it. He does not hate His Body. And His Body does

not fight with itself. His Body lives by His life, not by its own life. We are His Body and we are built together as living stones on the Revelation of who he is.

1 Peter 2:5 and ye yourselves, as living stones, are built up, a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (YLT)

When we hear the word *church*, a lot of times people think of a church building. The Bible talks about “the church that meets at so-and-so’s house” or “the church in such-and-such city”. It’s a group of people, not a building. But just like a building, the church has a foundation. The church is a people, but not just any group of people. It is a group of people who are living by Christ’s life, because the church is Christ’s body. How could any other life live in His body??

So let’s put the church on the foundation on our papers. I’m going to give you a picture of a building, but we’re going to make it a flap like we did with the rock, and we’re going to write the TRUE meaning of the word church under the flap. (*Pass out church building pictures. Kids can cut around the shape, but leave a wide edge on the right as a flap to glue.*) Glue the flap to your paper, so the church building opens up, with the building resting on the rock. Under the flap, have the kids write the words “His Body.”

Quick review:

Matthew 16: 17 –18 says, And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Just like a building has a foundation; the church is built on a foundation- the foundation of the revealed Christ. And the church that is built on that is His Body, those who live by His life.

Amen.

