

How Can I Be a Missionary Where I Live?

Lesson 34

Matthew 24:7-29

Memory Verse

If we tell God our wrongs, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and clean us from all our wrongs. 1 John 1:9

Introduction

If you could build a house somewhere, where would you want to live? Listen for ideas. Explain that today's lesson is a story about being wise in making decisions.

One time in the Bible, Jesus talked to many people about God and Heaven. They sat down and listened to Him for hours! Can you imagine what it must have been like to hear Jesus and see Him face to face?

Jesus told the people many things about God and about how to act. As He was talking, He shared how important it was to listen and do the things that He said.

Jesus shared a story to help the people know why it was important to obey God and do what He said.

Matthew 7:24-25

Scripture

"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.

There were two men who wanted to build new houses. They looked and looked for the perfect spot for their homes. One man was wise.

Discussion

Ask: What does it mean to be wise?

This means that he thought about things before he did them. He was careful in making decisions and listened to the ideas of others.

Ask: What did the wise man do?

The wise man decided to build his house on the hard rock. He poured a foundation of concrete first, and then built his house. He made sure everything was done correctly.

The other man was foolish.

Ask: What does it mean to be foolish?

This means that he did not listen to what others thought or think about the consequences of his actions. He did whatever he wanted and did not worry about what would happen.

Ask: Where did the foolish man build his house?

The foolish man loved the beach. He thought it would be wonderful to have a house on the beach. It would be close to the water and he could go swimming whenever he wanted. He did not think about the water being close to his house or what would happen when a storm came.

Matthew 7:26-27

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."

One day, dark, gray clouds drifted into the town. Suddenly, lightning bolted across the sky. The wind blew hard and raindrops flooded the town. The water began to rise and rise.

Ask: What happened to the foolish man's house?

The tide from the ocean began to creep up to the foolish man's house. Before long, the house was flooded! There was nothing the foolish man could do! The winds blew harder and knocked the house apart! The foolish man had nothing left.

Ask: What happened to the wise man's house?

The wise man watched the storm come from his warm home. He had thought about the importance of a safe, secure home. Now, when the storm came, he was safe. He did not have to worry. His house stood strong.

Ask: What are we supposed to do?

Jesus told this story to help us see that we should be like the wise man. When we are making decisions, we should ask God for help and listen for His answers. He will show us what to do and make sure we are safe. The important thing to remember is that we must do what God says.

Ask: What happens when we do things our way?

Jesus said that when we do things OUR way, we are like the foolish man. We do not listen to God and when bad things happen, we CRASH!

Matthew 7:28-29

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.

Application

Ask: Who would you like to be like?

The best way is to be like the wise man. He listened to God and did things His way. He was careful and smart. He thought about the consequences too.

Ask: When do we demonstrate that we are wise?

When we hear what God says in the Bible and do it, we are being wise. The Bible tells us that we have a very important decision to make. We must decide if we believe and trust Jesus. If we believe in Jesus, we must ask Him to come into our lives. This means that we want to do things His way instead of our way. When we trust Him, we are guaranteed that we will go to Heaven. We can't get to Heaven by doing good things. The only way to Heaven is by believing in Jesus.

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.