



Diocese of Chichester

Living the Mystery of Faith

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

# ***YOUTH LENT COURSE***

**THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

# WEEK 3

## TEACHING

### AIM/THEME

This isn't about knowing stuff,  
this is about knowing God

### LEARNING OUTCOME

There are storms coming. How  
are we preparing? Life is for  
living - are we going it alone or  
are we doing it with God?

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Facility to play a video from YouTube
- Jaffa Cakes & Squirty cream OR Jelly babies and dry spaghetti
- Playdough/Plasticine
- A rock/piece of slate for each young person and something to write or engrave on it with
- Flour
- Pyrex bowl
- Tray
- Sweets
- Butter knife (non-sharp knife)
- Printouts of takeaway and memory verse

### INFORMAL START

#### I KNOW BEST

Show the clip of Michael Fish's famous 1987 forecast, saying there wouldn't be a storm. Easy to find on YouTube

Talk as a group about examples of people not listening to the advice or views of others



ICEBREAKER

# ***LEANING TOWER OF JAFFA CAKES!***

Who can build the tallest tower of Jaffa cakes using just squirty cream as cement!

OR

Jelly baby scaffolding. Who can build the tallest scaffolding tower using dry spaghetti and jelly babies?

Pick one and get everybody doing the same thing. If you have a large group it's probably better to opt for the spaghetti and jelly baby towers and put people in small teams.

If there's a draw, bring a gentle storm and see which tower is the strongest!

# BIBLE READING & CONTEXT

## MATTHEW 7:24-29

Parable of the wise and foolish builder

Jesus told this parable at the end of a long teaching session - He had been talking about forgiveness, love, prayer, and what God's kingdom looks like. Then He says: 'If you hear these words and put them into practice, you are like a wise builder who built his house on the rock.' When the rain came and the winds blew, that house stood strong. But the one built on sand collapsed.

Key points:

- Everyone builds something. Your life is a construction project - your choices are the bricks.
- Storms come to everyone. Jesus doesn't say "if" the storm comes - He says when. Faith doesn't stop trouble, but it gives you strength.
- The difference is obedience. The wise builder doesn't just listen; they do. Faith grows stronger when it's lived out.
- Jesus is the rock. A relationship with Him - not rules - keeps us standing firm when life shakes.

## VIDEO CLIP

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=XJ6RR7CUROM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJ6RR7CUROM)



This clip of Harry Baker's poem "Wonderful" contains themes around life choices, living well, being in the moment even when the moment could be bad. The poem is an encouragement and a blessing to those listening.

Ask the young people: ***"what stood out for you in this poem? How did it make you feel? Can you imagine God speaking this over you, or could you pray parts of it as a prayer to God?"***

After some discussion consider playing the video again?



# DISCUSSION

**Jesus says the wise builder is the one who puts His words into practice. Why do you think Jesus cared more about doing His words than knowing them?**

- Leader prompt: What's the difference between knowing about God and actually knowing God?
- Follow-up: How can we move from just hearing about faith to really living in relationship with Him?

**Jesus talks about storms, times when life shakes us.**

**What kind of "storms" do people your age face today?**

- Leader prompt: Think about stuff that feels overwhelming: pressure, failure, change, loneliness.
- Follow-up: How can knowing God personally (not just knowing facts about Him) help when those storms hit?

**Life is for living; adventures, mistakes, growing and learning. How is it different doing it alone compared to doing it with God?**

- Leader prompt: What does it look like to "build" your everyday life with God involved?
- Follow-up: How could we start including God more naturally in what we already do: school, friendships, hobbies, decisions?

## RESPONSE

Hand out **playdough or plasticine**. Encourage young people to hold it, to mould it, shape it. Feel it move and press between your fingers. Does it change as it warms up. Smell it. Think about what it represents and listen to what God might be saying to you as you listen.

Share this reflection as they play with their clay:

Jesus finishes one of His biggest teaching moments with a story - the wise and foolish builders.

Both people heard His words. The difference wasn't knowledge, it was relationship and response.

The wise builder didn't just know about the rock; he built his life on it. He trusted it. He depended on it. We assume that the foolish builder also knew about the Rock, but chose NOT to build his house there.

It's not enough just to know about God - Bible verses, church stuff, good morals. We need to actually know Him. To build our lives with Him at the centre, or at the base!

Jesus doesn't say "if" the storm comes. He says "when" the storm comes. Life brings challenges; exams, breakups, loss, fear, questions. Storms will shake what we thought was solid.

The question isn't whether storms will come. The question is how will the foundation we're building on hold up when they do. Think now, What's your life built on?

Faith isn't about having all the answers. It's about being connected to the One who holds you steady when everything else moves.





# MEMORY VERSE

Ask who can remember the memory very from last week!

Try chanting sections of the verse separately and put it all together.

**"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**



## TAKEAWAY

Hand out rocks to all young people. Have them write a prayer or bible passage or one of Jesus teachings on the rock with markers or if you have slate then they can scratch into it. Tell the young people to take their rock away and hide it somewhere in their community during the week. They can take a picture of it in situ and bring it along next week.



## FINAL GAME/ACTIVITY

### Flour power.

Pack flour into a small glass pyrex bowl (or similar) as tightly as you can and right to the brim. Place a tray on top and carefully flip it over and lift off the bowl. You should now have a flour "cake" that holds itself together on the tray.

Place a sweet on top of the flour cake and have young people take in turns to slice away some of the flour without letting the sweet fall. They can cut away as much or as little as they like but if they make the sweet fall they have to fish it out of the pile of flour with their mouths.

This is a quick game to play and can get messy (especially if young people want to push the loser's face into the flour at the end. If you have a large group make up several flour cakes and have young people play in groups of upto 6. The flour can be packed and play can continue for as long as you like.





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