

## Ninth Sunday of the Year

Build your lives on me

### INTRODUCTION

Today Jesus uses a story to warn us about what will become of those people who choose to ignore his words, and instead of listening to what he has to say and acting on it, follow their own foolish ways.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say together Candle Prayer 3.

### SORRY

Ask the children to close their eyes and listen carefully to this prayer:

Do not be afraid;  
God will always love you.  
Whatever you have done,  
God will always love you.  
As a father loves his child,  
God will always love you.  
Come back to him and know,  
God's love lasts forever.

### GLORIA

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5.

### GOSPEL (MATTHEW 7:24-27)

Jesus told this parable to the crowds, "Once there was a wise man who built his house on rock, and a foolish man who built his house on sand. One day a terrible storm came, and the wind howled, and the rain poured down. The river near the two houses flooded over its banks and flowed past the walls of the houses. The house built on rock stood firm, while the other house collapsed and was washed away.

"And so it is, if you listen to me and do as I ask, you will be like the wise man. For those that please my father will find a place in heaven. But if you choose to ignore what I tell you, then you will be like the fool whose house was washed away."

### DISCUSSION

Have you ever noticed one of the first things that

builders do before they start to build a house? They dig deep wide trenches in the ground and fill them with concrete. This is the foundation of the house.

Why is the foundation so important? It is the solid base on which the whole house will rest, the support on which to make the walls of the new house.

Where did the two men in the Gospel build their houses? The wise man built his on rock, which was probably uneven and very hard to chip away until he had made a level surface on which to build his house. Compared to rock, it was much easier to dig and level the sand for the foolish man's house, and his house was not so strong.

What happened when the rain came and the river rose up and flooded its banks?

What is Jesus telling us in this story? Jesus is like the solid rock and our lives are like the houses. If we build our lives on strong foundations and choose to follow Jesus, then we will please our father in heaven.

It may take a lifetime to build our strong foundations, but we will be rewarded with everlasting life. If we ignore Jesus and our lives are built on greed and selfishness, then we will be like the fool who built his house on sand and was left with nothing.

### ACTIVITY

Give out these pictures of houses, or ask the children to draw and cut out their own picture. After each child has colored their house, arrange them on a board or as a mobile display.

### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you, dear father,  
for the many stories which Jesus told us.  
Through them he teaches us  
of love and kindness  
and shows us the way to you.  
Help us to remember today's story  
as we build our lives,  
knowing that Jesus  
is our rock and our foundation.

