

## **Building on the Rock**

### **Lesson 1 — Student Guide**

**Prepare for class:** Read Matthew 7:24-29

#### **Lesson Goal**

The goal of this lesson is to answer the following question: **What does Jesus mean when he tells us to build on rock?**

#### **Think**

#### **Evaluate**

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are the objects in this story?
3. Where did this story happen?
4. When did this story happen?
5. What is the problem?
6. What events occurred in this story?
7. Is the problem solved?

#### **Learn**

8. What is the main theme of this lesson?
9. What sin does this lesson teach us to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
11. What does God teach us to do in this lesson?

#### **Lead**

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

#### **Additional questions**

13. You have chosen to study and learn about God from these Bible lessons. What a blessing that is! You are learning about Christianity which teaches that only God makes us right with him through what his Son accomplished for us. All other religions teach that people must do something to save themselves. Because there are different kinds of Christian churches, we need to search God's saving Word so that we build in the right way and on the right rock. Lutherans

see in the Bible that God is very clear about how we sinners are saved. Read 1 Timothy 1:15 to find out that one way of salvation.

14. There are various Christian churches: Catholic, Lutheran, and many Protestant groups. They teach many of the same important Bible truths. And where the true Word of God is taught, there are believers! But the various Christian churches also differ in some teachings. Lutheran Bible scholars study God's Word in the original languages in which they were written and base teachings on what God teaches. Let's go through an example:
  - a. Read Matthew 16:13-19. Jesus talks to Peter about a rock. The Roman Catholic Church says that Peter is that rock and that the church is built on him, the first pope (head of the Catholic Church). The name "Peter" in Greek is "petros," a pebble. With the Greek word for rock ("petra") Jesus used in verse 18, he is talking about a large, solid rock or boulder. Jesus was not building his church on Peter, a sinful man who knew he did not deserve Jesus' love. Jesus was building his church on the solid, saving message that Peter believed and expressed in verse 16: Jesus is "the Christ (Savior), the Son of the living God."
  - b. Lutherans also research all of the Bible to find support for teachings. For an example, look at what Peter said about Jesus, the living Stone, in 1 Peter 2:2-6. Jesus is the cornerstone (a stone or base on which a house is built). What will not happen to those who build on and trust in Jesus?
15. We build our faith on the rock—the Lord Jesus and his saving Word. How will our faith be like the house built on solid rock?
16. How thankful we are when Christian churches teach that Jesus has done everything to save us from sin, death, and hell. When looking at any teachings that vary from Christian church to Christian church, we look to Scripture for guidance. Read Acts 17:11. What example of the Berean Christians who lived during the time of Apostle Paul's ministry can we follow?

### **Lesson wrap-up**

**What does Jesus mean when he tells us to build on rock?**