

Building Blocks

1. Find in the Bible and review 3 or more of the stories listed below:
Noah (Gen 6-7); Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9); Abram's tent (Gen 12:1-8); Wilderness tabernacle (Ex 25-27); Solomon's temple (1 Chronicles 28:1-10, 2 Chronicles 3-5); Manger (Luke 2:1-20); Wise man and foolish man (Luke 6:47-49); New Jerusalem (Rev. 21-22).
2. Invite a builder or carpenter to talk about the :
 - a. tools he uses (display and demonstrate)
 - b. kinds of things he builds
 - c. safety rules he follows
 - d. values like being honest, measuring carefully, following instructions/plans, setting a strong foundation.
3. Share 2 choices that you can make this week that will build up and not break down your character. A building's foundation is the most important part of the building. Our foundation is our character. Jesus, the master builder, will help us make good choices that will build a strong character.
4. Read Revelations 21-22 and learn about the heavenly home that God is making for all who choose His gift of eternal life. What building materials is He using?
5. Construct one or more buildings of any size or type. May work individually or in teams.

Purpose: Compare similarities between building a structure and building good character.

Resources needed: Bible, building materials as available, a creative mind and encouraging words.

Helps

1. As you review the stories emphasize the items built and encourage the children to discuss the choices the Bible characters made.
 - a. God asked Noah to build an ark. It took Noah 120 years to build the ark and he lived on it for over 1 year. Extra: How big was the ark? Use a long measuring tape to find out.
 - b. Babel—God knew the best thing for the people at that time was to live in tents so they could spread across the earth. Not to build the tower of Babel.
 - c. Abram's home was a tent. Extra: Make Abram's tent out of sheets and chairs.
 - d. God asked Moses to build a portable tabernacle.
 - e. God asked Solomon to build a tabernacle in Jerusalem.
 - f. God sent Joseph and Mary to a stable.
 - g. At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus refers to a man who built a house by first laying a strong foundation on a rock.
 - h. God wants you to live in the house he is building for you in heaven.
2. Questions you might ask: What materials do you build with? How do you know where to build? What is this tool used for? What do you need to learn to be a good builder? Alternatives: take a trip to a construction site, interview a workman and ask questions about the building.
3. Ways to share choices (you may work in teams):
 - a. Draw a brick wall on a poster and write one choice or characteristic on each brick.
 - b. Mime or act out a choice.
 - c. Illustrate a choice in a painting, drawing, sculpture, on a computer, video or camera.
 - d. Sing a song describing good character-building choices.
 - e. Privately, write a poem, or journal reflecting on your choice.
4. Bring gemstones to touch and see or show pictures of the New Jerusalem.
5. Any type of building materials may be used. Toys like Lego, Lincoln Logs or Tinker Toys. Craft sticks, play dough, foam board or construction paper. Real building materials such as sticks, straw, mud or bricks,

Suggestions for types of buildings: Bible buildings, your home, school, favorite shop, church, imagined heavenly home.



Grade 3

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