



Bad Advice
Wk #1 - Let's Build a Sandcastle
November 7 & 8, 2020



LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

The goal today is to help students realize that God's way is the only firm foundation we can build our lives on. Other things may **seem** like a good idea, but God's way is best!

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:24-27

THINK ABOUT THIS

Middle Schoolers are constantly presented with seemingly small opportunities to make the wrong decision. But even the smallest decisions help form the way they'll handle bigger ones later on in life. Right now, they are building their foundation in the most critical ways.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

We can build our lives on a ton of different things, but only a foundation built on God will last.

GET THEM TALKING

Do you like going to the beach? Why or why not?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Was there anything from today's lesson that stood out to you?
2. Share a story about a time you built a sandcastle, lego castle, or anything else that ended up getting torn down.

READ MATTHEW 7:24-27 and answer the following questions:

1. How was our activity today like the story that Jesus told?
2. Jesus says there are two types of people in this passage. Who are they?
3. Do you think it's possible to be wise without God?
4. What is the best/worst advice you've ever gotten? Was it godly advice? Did you listen to it? How did that situation turn out?
5. Why do you think so many people choose to not listen to how Jesus tells us to live?
6. What can we do differently?

NEXT STEP

Take 2 minutes a day to pray and ask God for wisdom, and then as you go through your day, CHOOSE to live the way He teaches you to.

PRAYER GUIDE

Dear God, we all ask for wisdom. We want to be the type of people you designed us to be. Please help us build our foundation on you and not the bad advice that the world has to offer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

MATTHEW 7:24-27

²⁴ “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. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”