

Wise or Foolish?

Read Matthew 7:24-29. Decide whether each line tells something about the wise or the foolish person. Circle the correct answer.

- builds house on rock Foolish
- rain does not destroy house Foolish
- hears God's Word but does not practice it Foolish
- hears God's Word and practices it Foolish
- builds house on sand Foolish

TWO BUILDERS

Circle these words from the story that Jesus told about wise and foolish builders: CRASH, FELL, FOOLISH, HEARS, HOUSE, MAN, RAIN, ROCK, SAND, WINDS, WISE. Look forward and down. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks.

H F E L L C E
R O C K A R H
A O S O W A E
I L B W I S E
N I M A N H A
E S A N D Y R
S H O U S E S

A wise person _____ and _____ the words of Jesus.

WORDS and letters

TWO BUILDERS
H E L L C E
R O C K A R H
A O S O W A E
I L B W I S E
N I M A N H A
E S A N D Y R
S H O U S E S

WISE OR FOOLISH?
Wise, wise, foolish, wise,
foolish

SAND CASTLE CONTEST

by Tanya Ferdinandusz

to admire Ella's castle, but few noticed Alyssa's.

The girls took a quick swim. Then they ate lunch at the hotel. Finally the girls walked down to the beach with their parents.

"There are the judges!" cried Alyssa.

"I hope I win first prize!" shouted Ella. Then her face clouded. "Hey! Where's my castle? Someone knocked it down!"

"I won first prize!" yelled Alyssa, jumping up and down.

"Hey, Alyssa! Aren't you entering the sand castle contest?" called Ella, running down to the beach. She was carrying her bright-blue bucket and spade.

"Sure I am!" replied Alyssa.

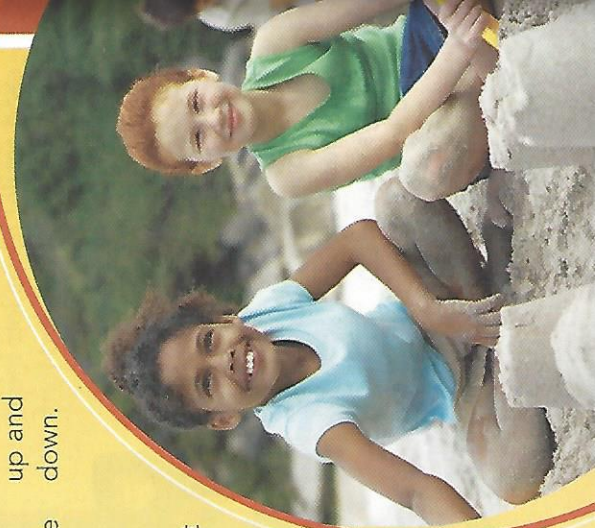
"So why are you hiding behind those rocks?" asked Ella.

"I'm building my sand castle on this nice, flat rock," replied Alyssa.

"But you'll have to cart buckets of sand all the way there," objected Ella. "Besides, everyone will see my castle and really like it! No one can see your old castle hidden over there."

"But my castle will last," argued Alyssa, walking toward Ella. She filled her big red bucket with soft sand. "When the judges come later, your castle might already be washed away by the waves. Mine will still be there."

Ella's castle soon grew big and tall. Alyssa's took a long time. She had to keep running down to the beach to fill her bucket. People stopped





"Ella, perhaps you built your castle too close to the waves. It probably got washed away," said Ella's dad gently.

"But it was too much trouble to carry buckets and buckets of sand and water all the way over there like Alyssa did," complained Ella.

"Never mind," said Dad. "It's only a sand castle after all. Just as long as you don't do the same to your life."

"What do you mean?"

"Well," began Dad, "Jesus said that people who listen to His words and put them into practice are like a man building his house on a rock, like Alyssa's sand castle! It was lots more work, walking back and forth with buckets full of sand, and people walking along the shore probably didn't even notice her castle. But it stood firm and didn't get washed away by waves."

He squeezed Ella's shoulder. "Life isn't always easy when you try to live by

Jesus' words, and other people may not even appreciate you. But if you build your life on Jesus, He will protect you from all kinds of storms."

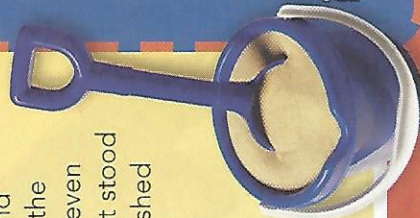
"I remember the rest of the story," said Ella thoughtfully.

"The person who doesn't obey Jesus is like someone who builds his house on the sand, like my sand castle! It wasn't hard to build, but as soon as the waves came, it got swept away."

"Right," said Dad.

"Next time, I'll build my sand castle on a rock," said Ella, smiling. "Oh, and my life too!"

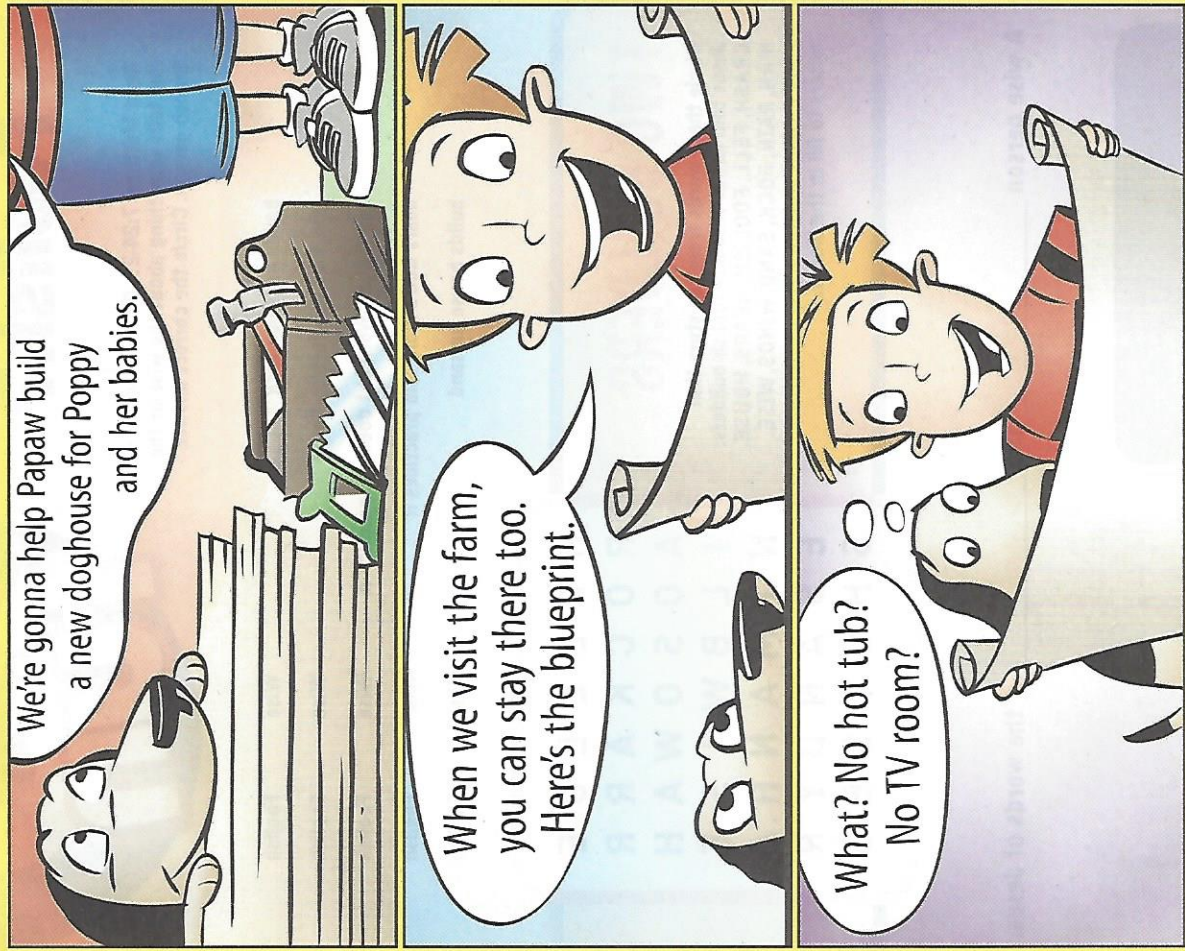
What did you learn from Alyssa? from Ella?



How can you put Jesus' teachings into practice?

BY JENNA LUSBY
ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT ANGLE

TOON TIME



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BIBLE MEMORY Hebrews 11:1, 6