

## READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is

### **House on the Rock**

from Matthew 7:24-28.

#### **A house built on bedrock will stand.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Wise
- Foolish
- Astounded
- Authority
- Scribe

In Israel, house builders must be careful to build their homes where floods cannot wash them away.

#### **Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 282-285

*Spark Bible* page 1066

#### **Family Prayer**

Dear Lord, help us to live as you teach so our lives will rest on faith as strong as bedrock. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### **Family Conversations**

- 1** What happens to sand castles when waves hit them?
- 2** How is practicing our faith like building our house on rock?
- 3** What happens to our thinking and actions when we are worried or afraid? How can we help ourselves to think clearly?
- 4** Draw a house together. As wise builders, name the ways you can practice your faith and live as God wishes to make your faith as firm as a rock.



#### **Eye Spark**

Look at the homes around you. Remember Jesus' parable.



#### **Ear Spark**

Listen. What needs to be done around your house? Help.

## LIVE IT

### **For families to do together**

Mound up sand from a sandbox. Place a toy house upon it. Pour a pitcher of water over it. What happens to the house? Do the same with a house set on rock. What happens now?

### **For younger kids**

Build many sandcastles this week. Do any of them stand in water?

### **For older kids**

Research the effects of floods.

## Art

Have everyone make a crayon drawing in light colors (white and yellow work best). Draw a big cross in the center. Then paint a storm over it with dark water-color paints. Notice how the paint cannot overcome the cross and other things you've drawn. Talk about how God is with us in our storms of life. Because of our faith, the storms cannot overwhelm us.

## Computer Lab

Go online and do some research on storm shelters. Then create one of your own. Collect bottled water, granola bars, blankets, toilet paper, radio, candles, games, and so on. Have a storm alert drill. Hold family devotions in your storm shelter and read this Bible story together. Thank God for creating a sure foundation for us.

## Creative Drama

Take your family to a park or other public outdoor location near your home. Listen to the sounds. Share with one another the sounds you hear. Tell each other you love them, and that God loves them. Use your voice and the sounds you hear to honor and praise God.

## Video

Display an image in your home of a house on a rock. Each time someone recognizes an act that follows Jesus' words, write it around the foundation of the house. (sharing, forgiveness, courage, humility, bravery, truthfulness) Soon you will see how these actions build a strong foundation for a loving home.

## Bible Skills and Games

Talk about different versions of movies, stories, fairytales, and games. Write a new version of Matthew 7:24-29. Think about a theme other than house building. Write a new story version together that helps us to know that our faith in God should be strong. One person can illustrate the story. Share your story with another family or at church.

## Cooking

Try making rock candy. It may take up to a week, but it's fun and fascinating. It requires simple ingredients and supplies of sugar, water, extract, a glass jar, and a skewer. Wet the skewer, roll it in sugar, and let it dry. Boil 2 cups (500 mL) water with 4 cups (800 g) sugar until the sugar is dissolved. Take it off the heat and add 1 tsp (5 mL) extract of your choice. Pour this syrup into the jar. Suspend the skewer in it with a clothespin. Store in a cool, dry place with plastic wrap loosely set on top. Talk about how the rock of our lives is faith in God.

## Music

Families can create their own stone altars at home—outside (if your climate permits you to build the altar year-round) or indoors (if your climate is too cold for part of the year or if you don't have outdoor space). For an indoor altar, place a bowl in the middle of the table. When you have shared meals, give each person a stone to place in the bowl either as a thank-you prayer, "Please bless \_\_\_\_\_," or "I need strength for \_\_\_\_\_." For an outdoor altar, choose a regular time in the week when your whole household can gather for prayer. If a person chooses to add a rock without telling why, respect his or her privacy.

## Science

Visit a historic building in your area. It may be a church, a city building, or a historic home. Walk around the outside of the building. Look at the foundation. Identify the materials used in the foundation. Find the cornerstone and the date it was built. Talk about what makes a building strong so it will last.