

Would you build a house on the rocks or the sand? Whether you are a building or simply like constructing with Lego, this question is vital to creating a stable, firm foundation for a house.

Jesus said, "Anyone who hears these words is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. It did not fall, because it was built on the rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!" *Matthew 7: 24-27 Good News Bible*

#### What does *foundation* mean?

The builder might say, 'the lowest load-bearing part of a building, usually below ground level.' Jesus, in telling this parable is comparing the builder's definition with the meaning of having something on which we build our lives. Having faith in God's love is a good foundation.

#### Why does Jesus talk about *sand* and *rocks*?

If you build a house (a real one or a Lego one) you need something firm, strong and stable to build it on. Like rocks. A house without a firm foundation, a house built on sand, is not firm. The weather may blow the sand away, rain wash it away, and eventually the house will fall because the foundations are not strong enough.

In the *Three Little Pigs*, it is the house built of bricks that finally defeated the wolf. Like rocks, the bricks provided a firm foundation that cover came the evil that was threatened. An architect's (a person who designs buildings) drawings always began with a firm foundation constructed of something hard. A foundation can also be the beginning of something or the first part. In schools, we have the *Early Years Foundation Stage* which are the first years of schooling on which our learning is built. Getting the foundations right is vital.

Try building two small houses out of Lego. Place one on a pile of stones and the other on a pile of sand. Pour water over them and watch what happens. Which is built on a good foundation? God wants us to build our lives on strong foundations just like the wise man.