



BYBC 2024: Growing in Jesus

Theme: Jesus' Parables
The Sower and the Seeds
The Lost Sheep
The Wise and Foolish Builder
The Good Samaritan

Memory Verse:

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)

Worship: Seeds Family Worship – Colossians 2:6-7
<https://youtu.be/AS9c-wFEvBw?si=Ck6KUDDdekGdBAqA>

***Teacher's Note: The following lesson guide includes suggested visual aids, discussion questions, order of items, etc. Each club is unique, with different age groups, number of volunteers, number of kids, etc. Please know you can modify these plans to include additional ideas/visual aids you have, to better suit the age group of your club, etc. The main goals each day are to share the Gospel with the kids, worship God together, teach the kids more about Jesus and how to live our lives for Him, and have fun!**

Day 1: The Sower and Seeds (Luke 8:4-15)

Worship:

My God Is So Big
Create in Me

Lesson:

Open with Prayer

Skit

We are so excited to have you join us for Backyard Bible Club this week! We are going to be hearing lots of special stories from the Bible throughout the week. The Bible is God's Word given to us to teach us who He is and what He has done for us. The Bible teaches us the truth about our sin and our need for a Savior. Sin is when we do things our way instead of God's way. The Bible tells us that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God's Son and lived a perfect life while here on earth. He never sinned! Though he never sinned, Jesus willingly died a criminal death on a cross and bore the full weight of our sin so that we can have a relationship with God.

- **GOSPEL** = Explain the Bridge diagram of the gospel. (Consider defining bolded words as you tell the gospel)
 - Start by writing the name GOD on one side of the board and talking about how He created the Garden of Eden, a perfect place for Adam and Eve to live. (Draw stick people on the other side of the board for Adam and Eve.) He told them if they obeyed Him, they could live in a perfect relationship with Him forever! The bad news is they didn't obey, and they ate the forbidden fruit. Adam and Eve sinned, **sin** entered the world and now we are all born sinners. And because God is **holy**, we can't be in perfect fellowship with Him. We are separated from God because of our sin. This created a **chasm**, an infinitely deep and HUGE hole that no one could ever cross (draw the chasm). And God could have left it that way! But did He? No! He loves us so much He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him again. And that way was JESUS, His son, who came and took our sins by dying on the cross and defeating death. (Draw the bridge of the cross.) This is a message of GOOD NEWS, which we call the Gospel. We have the opportunity to **repent** and believe in Jesus to restore our

relationship with God and have eternal life in heaven one day. And this week we will be talking about this so everyone here understands this good news and can decide to follow Jesus!

Jesus tells us several stories in the Gospels (4 books in the New Testament that tell about Jesus' life) that we call parables. The parables are stories Jesus told to help us understand more about Him and the Kingdom of Heaven. Today's parable comes from Luke 8:4-15. Let's turn in our Bibles and read this together. (Help kids find passage on **Page 1111** in the *Following Jesus Bible*). Read Luke 8:4-15.

This is the lesson that Jesus wanted his disciples to learn, and it is also the lesson that he wants us to learn today. (Explain what a sower was, especially explaining it doesn't mean sewing, which is probably what kids will hear that word as.) The seed that the sower was planting in the story represents the teachings of God's Word. Our heart represents the soil where the sower planted the seeds.

Teachers, consider having visual aids of different containers representing the different soils. Ask the kids which one looks like it would best grow some seeds.

Sometimes our parents, pastors, or teachers are trying to plant the teaching of God's love in our heart. If our heart is hard and filled with anger and bitterness, the teaching falls on hard ground and never grows, just like the seed that fell on the hard ground in the parable that Jesus told.

There are other times when we hear the Word and we get excited about it, but then our excitement fades away because our understanding is too shallow. That's the way it was with the seed that fell on the rocky soil.

Sometimes we hear the Word and we believe what it says, but we want to keep on doing the same things we have been doing. That is like planting the seed in with a bunch of weeds. I'm sure you can guess what happens. The weeds will soon take over!

The last seed is the best; it fell on the good ground. If you learn from what you hear here at BYBC, the seed that Jesus plants in your heart will grow. Your life will produce good fruit just like Jesus intended. You will be helping others to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God's love.

(<https://sermons4kids.com/sermons/the-parable-of-the-sower>)

Introduce Memory Verse: Colossians 2:6-7 (Use the visual aid foam board with the verse)

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Have the students repeat the verse as you read it. Then focus discussion on just the bold part for this day...adding parts all week until the full verse is memorized on the last day of camp. **We are the soil types mentioned in the parable we read about today. Is your heart ready to receive Christ as Lord as it says in our verse today: "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord,"?**

CLOSE IN PRAYER--pray for hearts to be ready to receive Jesus as Lord

Game:

4 Corners (Soils)--hard, thorny, rocky, good

- Play the game of Four Corners, but instead of each corner of the yard being a number 1-4, name each corner: Path, Rocks, Thorns, Good.
- Clearly practice with the kids which corner is which corner is which name.
- Identify one child to be "it" (or have the teacher be "it")
- While It closes their eyes and counts to 10, all the other students run to one of the four corners.
- Then It says one of the four names of the soils.
- All children in that corner are out of the game and can go sit in the middle. If no one is in that corner, no one has to sit down.
- Repeat until there is a winner.

Freeze or Blob Tag

Craft:

Decorate Pot & Plant Seed

Peat pots, decorated with paint pens (also used for the rock craft). Kids will decorate their pots and then put dirt and seed in it.

Snack:

Dirt pudding with gummy worms

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/8373949283130021/>

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What are the four types of soils in Jesus' parable of the Sower and the Seeds? Path (hard, packed soil), rocky soil, thorny soil (full of weeds), and good soil.
2. What does the seed represent in the Sower and the Seed Parable? The Word of God
3. What does the good soil represent in the Parable of the Sower and the Seed? Those with obedient hearts who hear and understand the word and try to obey it.
4. Who enters God's Kingdom? (Those who believe in Jesus)

Additional resource:

<https://www.teachusthebible.com/Lesson.php?Lesson=parable-of-the-sower>

Day 2: Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)

Worship:

Seeds Family Worship – Colossians 2:6-7

<https://youtu.be/AS9c-wFEvBw?si=Ck6KUDDdekGdBAqA>

(Can stop the song early so it's not so long)

I Just Wanna Be a Sheep

- mention we will learn in our story today why we want to be a sheep
- also explain who Pharisees and Saducees were:
 - *Ex. The Pharisees and Sadducees were two Jewish groups that were part of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling body, during the time of Jesus. They had different beliefs and backgrounds, and often rejected each other and Jesus.*

My God Is So Big

Lesson:

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The Bible is God's Word given to us to teach us who He is and what He has done for us. The Bible teaches us the truth about our sin and our need for a Savior. Sin is when we do things our way instead of God's way. The Bible tells us that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God's Son and lived a perfect life while here on earth. He never sinned! Though he never sinned, Jesus willingly died a criminal death on a cross and bore the full weight of our sin so that we can have a relationship with God.

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news is they didn't obey, and they ate the forbidden fruit. Adam and Eve sinned, **sin** entered the world and now we are all born sinners. And because God is **holy**, we can't be in perfect fellowship with Him. We are separated from God because of our sin. This created a **chasm**, an infinitely deep and HUGE hole that no one could ever cross (draw the chasm). And God could have left it that way! But did He? No! He loves us so much He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him again. And that way was JESUS, His son, who came and took our sins by dying on the cross and defeating death. (Draw the bridge of the cross.) This is a message of GOOD NEWS, which we call the Gospel. We have the opportunity to **repent** and believe in Jesus to restore our relationship with God and have eternal life in heaven one day. And this week we will be talking about this so everyone here understands this good news and can decide to follow Jesus!

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Have you ever lost something important or special to you? (Responses)

In our story today, the Shepherd had 100 sheep and he loses one of them. Does he leave the sheep to die or does he go and search for it? (He goes and searches for it). How does the Shepherd feel when he finds the sheep who has gone astray? (He is joyful!) What does he do with the sheep once he finds it? (He brings it back to the flock and rejoices with his friends and neighbors.)

What do we know about Shepherds and how they care for their sheep? (Allow responses) Shepherds love their sheep. Sometimes they even have names for the sheep. A shepherd leads his sheep to nutritious green grass to eat. He looks for nice clean water so his sheep could have a drink when they are thirsty.

A shepherd watches after every sheep and takes care of them. Sometimes dangerous animals like bears and lions would come and try to hurt his sheep. The shepherd protects the sheep and chases all of the dangerous animals away from them.

At other times a sheep would wander away from the rest of the sheep and the shepherd had to call out the sheep's name. When the sheep heard the shepherd's voice he would run back to the shepherd.

The Shepherd is God and we are the sheep. When we sin and go our own way, God relentlessly pursues us and brings us back into his flock. He rejoices over us with singing and throws a party in heaven when we repent of our sin and return to Him! He loves us so much and pursues us faithfully and continually. He longs for us to remain in Him. Promising to never leave us or forsake us, Jesus gives us hope of forever with Him in heaven! I'm going to read Psalm 23 to show you how God shepherds us, his sheep. (Read Psalm 23)

Like a good Shepherd, God protects us, guides us, comforts us, feeds us, leads us, and gives us eternal life. In John 10:14-15, Jesus says "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me...and I lay down my life for the sheep." As the Good Shepherd, Jesus even gave up his life for us when he died on the cross to save us for our sin. We were lost in our transgressions, and now, through Christ's sacrifice, we are found! We all like sheep have gone astray, BUT GOD in his mercy has not given up on us and has lured us back into his fold with his love. Praise God for his compassion and grace on us!

Review Memory Verse: Colossians 2:6-7

Work on the bold part...adding parts all week until the full verse is memorized on the last day of camp.

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in him**, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

The second part of our verse says "so walk in him", when we follow the Shepherd, Jesus, we walk in him. Praying, reading our Bible, worshiping, and spending time with other believers are all wonderful ways to grow and know God and His love and plan for us more.

CLOSE IN PRAYER—pray for hearts to be ready to receive Jesus as Lord and to walk in him

*****REMIND KIDS TO BRING TOWELS FOR WATER DAY AND WEAR THEIR SWIMSUITS*****

Games:**Sharks and Minnows but call it Wolves and Sheep.**

Tag game, where there is one wolf in the middle and the rest are sheep. The sheep try to run from one side to the other without getting tagged. If you are tagged, you become a wolf in the middle; the sheep keep crossing back and forth until everyone is tagged.

Hide and Seek Games with mini sheep**Craft:**

<https://churchleaders.com/children/childrens-ministry-articles/349008-lost-sheep-craft.html>

Kids make a sheep with a cotton ball and make a game with 3 cups where you try to guess which cup has the cotton ball under it.

Also will have coloring/activity pages for extra time.

Snack: trail mix: popcorn, pretzels, marshmallows, M & M's

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. How did the Pharisees react to Jesus eating with sinners?
2. What did the Shepherd do when he found his lost sheep?
3. How are we like sheep?
4. Why is Jesus like the Good Shepherd?

Day 3: The Wise and Foolish Builder (Matthew 7:24-27)

Worship:

My Feet Are on the Rock
Memory Verse Song
I Just Wanna Be a Sheep

(or with a younger group, The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rocks)

Lesson:

Open with Prayer

Skit

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The Bible is God's Word given to us to teach us who He is and what He has done for us. The Bible teaches us the truth about our sin and our need for a Savior. Sin is when we do things our way instead of God's way. The Bible tells us that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God's Son and lived a perfect life while here on earth. He never sinned! Though he never sinned, Jesus willingly died a criminal death on a cross and bore the full weight of our sin so that we can have a relationship with God.

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was JESUS, His son, who came and took our sins by dying on the cross and defeating death. (Draw the bridge of the cross.) This is a message of GOOD NEWS, which we call the Gospel. We have the opportunity to **repent** and believe in Jesus to restore our relationship with God and have eternal life in heaven one day. And this week we will be talking about this so everyone here understands this good news and can decide to follow Jesus!

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(We plan to have a house pre-built on a firm foundation and a house built on sand in containers or something to show students/have a visual and pour water over each house showing how each withstands the elements.)

The first man was very wise. He thought carefully about the kind of house he wanted to build. He wanted a house that was sturdy. If a strong wind or heavy rains came he did not want his house to collapse. This wise man knew that the most important part of a house is the foundation. The foundation is the first thing that is built, the bottom of the house. The foundation has to be sturdy and strong to make the house sturdy and strong.

The wise man looked everywhere and then he found the perfect place. He found a huge flat rock for the foundation of the house. The wise man dug around and chipped the rock until it was the perfect size for his house. Then he built his house on the rock.

After he was finished he lived in the house. Many times storms came to his house. The winds blew and the rains came but the wise man sat comfortably in his house. He did not worry about the storms because he had built his house on a rock.

In Jesus' parable, he told of another man that built a house. This man was foolish. He did not think carefully about the kind of house he should build; he just found a nice flat place and started building. He built his house on sand. The foundation kept slipping and sliding in the sand but the foolish man did not care. He just wanted to build a house.

When the foolish man finished his house he moved in. Guess what happened when the first storm came? The winds blew and the rains came down and the foolish man's house fell apart. It fell apart because it did not have a strong foundation.

After Jesus told the parable he explained to the people what the parable really meant. He said that the wise man was like someone who listened to Jesus' instructions and then followed the instructions. Jesus' commands are always right. When a person builds his life on Jesus' words he is building a strong foundation. He will be strong inside.

The foolish man in the parable was like someone who listened to Jesus' commands but then did not follow them. A person that does not build his life on Jesus' words will not have a strong foundation. He will be weak inside.

The people were amazed at the parable that Jesus taught. They were happy that he made things very easy to understand. His parable helped them want to listen to more things that Jesus had to say. The parable also made them want to follow Jesus' instructions.

<https://missionbibleclass.org/new-testament/part1/parables-teachings-of-jesus/parable-of-wise-and-foolish-builders/>

James 1:22-25 says "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

If we want to be wise and build our lives on strong foundations and truths, we can't leave our Bibles on the nightstand and expect to do what is right! We need to study God's Word and know what it says. We need to memorize scripture, spend time in prayer and with other believers. If we are not reading the Bible or asking our parents to read it to us, our lives quickly become built on our own thoughts and not the truths of Christ.

(Maybe have kids brainstorm some commands or instructions God gives in the Bible and make a quick list?)

Let's ask God to help us build our lives and our houses on His firm foundation and truth found in His word.

Review Memory Verse: Colossians 2:6-7

Work on the bold part...adding parts all week until the full verse is memorized on the last day of camp.

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught**, abounding in thanksgiving.

The third part of our verse says “rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught”. When we build our lives on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ, we will be rooted and built up in him and established in the faith. Just as a plant gets nourishment from the soil through its roots, so we draw our strength and nourishment from Christ when our roots are planted in Him. He wants to help and guide us each day in all things...will you trust Him?

CLOSE IN PRAYER—pray for hearts to be ready to receive Jesus as Lord and for wisdom to build our houses on His firm foundation

Games: Water day (if the weather is not great for water, choose any other games from previous days to play again)

Craft/Activity:

Stacked Cup Relay / Minute to Win It type games

Cup Pyramid relay: Play as pairs or individuals. Place some plastic or paper cups on the ground or a table. Set a time (1-2 minutes) and have the kids race to see either who can stack all of their cups into a pyramid first or whose pyramid is the tallest when time runs out.

Rock Painting with paint pens and flat rocks

Collect stones that have at least one flat side (like river stones). Have the children paint the rocks with the words “My feet are on the rock” or “I love Jesus” on them. They could draw crosses with hearts, write Scripture references, or simply make a little decoration. The kids can take the rocks home to have as a reminder that Jesus is our Rock, or they can hide the rock somewhere for someone else to find and brighten their day.

Snack: Popsicles (for clubs who have animals coming on this day, snack will be during lesson time)

Wise or Foolish Choice:

Play a game of wise or foolish choices. Give the kids some options and ask them to stand up if it's a wise choice (obeying Jesus) or sit down if it's a foolish choice. Ask them to think about things which honor Jesus.

For example:

Wise Choice	Foolish Choice
Praying for someone	Hit someone who is nasty to you
Giving to the needy	Stealing something you want
Saying thank you	Calling someone bad names.

Show how the storm hit both the wise man's and the foolish man's house. Remind the children that even when we trust and obey Jesus, we will have difficult days. However, by trusting in Him and obeying His words, we will always remain safe in God and ready for the storm.

Remind your children that God is good and wants what is best for them. When He asks us to obey the Bible, it is because He loves us and wants to keep us safe. Try to find some safety warning around your home or church and talk about whether it would be wise or foolish to ignore them.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did the wise man build his house upon? *The Rock*
2. What did the foolish man build his house upon? *The Sand*
3. In our lives, who is really the Rock? *Jesus*
4. What happens when we build our life upon the rock? *We stand on the knowledge of Jesus and He will help us to stand firm and not fall down.*
5. What happens when we build our life upon the sand? *When life gets hard we will fall.*
6. What is wisdom? *Answers may vary. Wisdom is doing what is right in the sight of the Lord.*
7. What are some of the things that we can do to gain wisdom? *Read our Bibles, pray, attend Church, listen to our parents and teachers, etc.*
8. Will you build your life on the rock or on the sand? *Answers will vary. Use this as a discussion question, more than a question with a right or wrong answer.*

Day 4: The Good Samaritan

Worship:

J-E-S-U-S

Memory Verse Song

My Feet Are on the Rock

Lesson:

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Wow! God is so good to teach us how we should live through His word. Let's reenact what happened in our story today. (Request 4 volunteers plus robbers and act out the story.) Teacher narrates (see below in bold) while children act out their role.

Wherever Jesus went people would come to hear him tell about God. They loved to hear him tell parables. Parables were stories that helped people understand important lessons.

Once a man who was an expert in the Law of God asked Jesus a question, "Teacher, what must I do to live forever?"

Jesus knew that man was an expert in God's Old Testament Laws. He asked the man what the Old Testament Law said that a person must do to live forever.

The man's answer was, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and, Love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus told the man that he was right. That was the greatest commandment. That is the way to live forever.

Then the man asked about loving your neighbor as yourself. Did he have to love all of his neighbors or just the ones that lived close by? He asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

Instead of telling him the answer Jesus told a parable. This is the parable:

A man was traveling by himself from Jerusalem to the town of Jericho. While he was on the road some robbers attacked him. They beat him up and took everything he had – even his clothes! The man was left all alone on the road. He waited and waited for someone to come by and help him.

A priest came walking by on the road. Priests were God's helpers in the temple. They knew how to worship God. They knew all of the rules of God. Do you think the priest helped the man? No, the priest went to the other side of the road and passed right by the man without help.

Next, a Levite came along the road. Levites knew all of God's laws. They were good Jews. Do you think the Levite stopped and helped the man? No, the Levite looked at the man and then crossed the road and walked right past him.

Finally, a man from Samaria came along the road. The Jews did not like Samaritans. Everybody thought that the Samaritans would never help anybody. But this Samaritan was good. He saw the man on the road and he stopped to help. He put oil and wine on the man's wounds. (Oil and wine were used for medicine in those times.) Then he lifted the man onto his donkey and took him to a nearby inn. He took care of the man all night to make sure he was going to be well.

The next morning the Samaritan had to leave to continue on his journey. He wanted to make sure that the injured man was taken care of so he gave money to the innkeeper. He gave him enough money so that the man could stay at the inn for two months! He even told the innkeeper that he would come back the next time he was traveling and pay more money if the man was still sick.

Everyone was very surprised to hear this parable. When Jesus was finished he asked the expert in the Law of God a question, "Three men went on the road that day: the priest, the Levite and the Samaritan. Which of these men do you think was a neighbor to the man who was beaten and robbed?"

What do you think the expert in the Law of God answered? That's right, the Samaritan was a neighbor. Helping anyone who needs help is being the kind of neighbor that God wants. We don't even have to know the person. We should help them just because they need help.

<https://missionbibleclass.org/new-testament/part1/parables-teachings-of-jesus/parable-of-the-good-samaritan/>

Great job recreating our story! Praise God for teaching us His Truths through His word.

Review Memory Verse: Colossians 2:6-7

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Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, **abounding in thanksgiving.**

The final part of our verse says “abounding in thanksgiving.” When we follow Jesus and put our faith in Him, our hearts are abounding in Thanksgiving because of what He has done for us! We should channel that Thanksgiving into loving others well and sharing Jesus with our friends and neighbors so that they can have the hope of eternal life too!

CLOSE IN PRAYER—pray for hearts to be ready to receive Jesus as Lord and for courage to share His love with our neighbors through our words and actions.

Games: Wrap up a patient with toilet paper; Relay races

Activity/Craft:

“I can show God’s love” flipbook

https://www.etsy.com/listing/1619618462/i-can-show-gods-love-flip-book-for-kids?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=good+samaritan+craft&ref=sr_gallery-1-7&pro=1&dd=1&content_source=1ab172cedac703c153235d15ca4aefc85a271168%253A1619618462&search_preloded_img=1&organic_search_click=1

Snack: packaged bags of crackers and pretzels

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What are the two most important commandments in God's Law?
2. How did the priest and Levite respond to the injured man on the road?
3. Who was a true neighbor to the injured man? Why?
4. Can anyone obey the law perfectly?
5. How can we receive eternal life?