

Outline All Age Service for Education Sunday 2017

(This outline uses 3 short talk/activities which could be combined into one sermon, if this is your normal pattern.)

Opening Prayers

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God of our days and years,
we set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you.
Amen.

Introduction to the theme

The Wise and Foolish builders.

Use a big Jenga set, or cardboard boxes. Deliberately make the base as small and useless as you dare. Ask some members young/old of the congregation to build higher. They are not allowed to change the base. Pretty soon the tower will fall down. Now ask those who are helping to make a better, more stable tower. Don't help them! After a while ask one or two to explain what they are doing that's different. Hopefully they will explain that they have made a firm/secure base to build on. If they don't ask others in the congregation to explain.

Sarah Brown – Children's Advisor, Diocese of Derby

Song/Hymn

Confession

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the Father forgive *us*
by the death of his Son
and strengthen *us*
to live in the power of the Spirit
all *our* days.
Amen.

Reading (Luke 6:46-49 GNT)

The Two House Builders

⁴⁶ “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and yet don't do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ Anyone who comes to me and listens to my words and obeys them—I will show you what he is like. ⁴⁸ He is like a man who, in building his house, dug deep and laid the foundation on rock. The river flooded over and hit that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears my words and does not obey them is like a man who built his house without laying a foundation; when the flood hit that house it fell at once—and what a terrible crash that was!”

Activity/Talk

Ask those listening to think about the things that they rely on in their lives. Maybe it's family, perhaps it's a job or a role in the home or somewhere else, perhaps it's a favourite computer game or even your social media. Maybe it's a really important hobby or a place you visit regularly – a café or a pub perhaps.

Now, if you'd like to do a charade – a quick mime of the thing you're thinking of to the people around. See if they can guess what it is.

Sarah Brown – Children's Advisor, Diocese of Derby

Jesus didn't say that enjoying the sand is wrong, he just said that it's not a good idea to build your life on these things. So the things you've just acted out aren't bad or wrong, but it's good to think about exactly what or who we are basing our life on.

Jesus says that the wise and good house builder is the one who hears Jesus words and obeys – really does what Jesus says. The foolish builder hears Jesus' words but takes no notice of them. He sets himself up for a disaster.

Song/Hymn

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Talk

If you have a way to do this, use these pictures to explain. The first picture shows a dried-up riverbed (wadi) near to the area that Jesus would have been teaching. It looks pleasant, and when the rains come there will be a lovely stream to enjoy.

The second picture shows the wadi in flood. It has been raining miles away up in the mountains and you have no warning of the flood that is coming. Anything not firmly anchored will be washed away.



SAND

FLOOD

If you have space and resources, put two baby paddling pools (no water) out, a plastic sheet underneath is recommended. Put a layer of sand in one and a concrete or stone slab in the other. Nearby have some lego/duplo or other bricks. You also need a couple of full watering cans. Challenge the congregation to think about their

own lives their own foundation. Then any that wish to can build a small lego model and place it either in the sand or on the rock to indicate their own foundation Water each paddling pool generously. By this stage there should be no surprises.

Intercessions

Led by a school pupil or member of staff from a local school/place of education.

Followed if appropriate with prayer specifically for those who attend and work in educational establishments.

Song/Hymn

Closing prayer and Blessing

**God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and
worship you
now and always.**

Extra Resources

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/chalmers/two-builders.html>

http://cte.org.uk/Groups/65509/Home/Resources/Education_Sunday/Education_Sunday_Archive/Education_Sunday_Archive.aspx

<https://methodistchildrencreativeministry.org/tag/wise-and-foolish-builders-2/>

Through our lives and by our prayers Your Kingdom come.

We pray for all children and young people in education, for those who are home educated and those who receive their education in schools, colleges and Universities. We remember those particularly who have just moved to a new school and those who attending school, college or University for the first time.

Silence

Through our lives and by our prayers Your Kingdom come.

We pray for all who teach, for those who hold senior responsibilities and exercise leadership, and especially for Head teachers and Principals.

Silence

Through our lives and by our prayers Your Kingdom come.

We pray for all who contribute to the life of schools by running extra-curricular groups, those who volunteer as Governors, and those who fundraise.

Silence

Through our lives and by our prayers Your Kingdom come.

Sarah Brown – Children’s Advisor, Diocese of Derby

We pray for all administrative, support and ancillary staff in our schools, colleges and Universities.

Silence

Through our lives and by our prayers Your Kingdom come.

We pray for our Chaplains, lay and ordained, in our schools, colleges and Universities.

Silence

Through our lives and by our prayers Your Kingdom come.

We pray for all parents, especially for those who struggle with their responsibilities and those with few resources.

Silence

Through our lives and by our prayers Your Kingdom come.

Give us all your strength and courage, May we know your hope, and rely on your promise to be with us, always. Amen. not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours. Now and for ever. Amen.