

youthESource Drama

In Christ Alone Our Joy is Found

by Sarah R. Larson

Key Scripture: Philippians 4:4 - 7; Matthew 7:24 - 27

Pre-Lesson Group Discussion Question:

What does joy look like?

Post-Lesson Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 7:24 - 27.
2. According to the Wise and Foolish Builders, what might joy look like?
3. In what ways do we "build" our lives on the Rock, or Jesus Christ? On sinking sand?
4. Read Philippians 4:5, 6. What are some of our greatest "unknowns," and what do these verses tell us about God's love for us in times of uncertainty?
5. If our foundation is the Rock, or Jesus Christ, in what ways according to Philippians 4:5, 6 do we come to Him with and in the midst of our storms?

Final Thought: The Rock, Jesus Christ, promises through His Word and Sacraments to be our Rock... regardless of who we are, what we've done, and what we will ever do. He is unshakeable and loves us so much. In Him alone we put our trust. Praise be to God!

Characters

WISE BUILDER

FOOLISH BUILDER

Lights up.

The FOOLISH BUILDER sits at a small table scribbling on a piece of large drafting paper. He/she pauses occasionally to survey his/her work and grins, proudly. The WISE BUILDER sits at his/her own small table. He/she carefully uses a ruler to draw his/her house plans, making careful drawing motions with great concentration and deep thought.

WISE BUILDER (*reciting to himself/herself as he/she draws*): "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. No merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand."

Confused and frustrated, the FOOLISH BUILDER looks at the WISE BUILDER. The WISE BUILDER pauses and looks at the FOOLISH BUILDER.

WISE BUILDER (*continued to the FOOLISH BUILDER, matter of factly*): "All other ground is sinking sand."

The FOOLISH BUILDER rolls his/her eyes and looks back at his/her paper.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*back at work*): What are you talking about?

WISE BUILDER: You mean the words?

FOOLISH BUILDER: Yes.

WISE BUILDER: It's a song. It's an old one.

The FOOLISH BUILDER chuckles, unconcerned. He/she scribbles on his/her paper again, hurriedly and with flourish.

WISE BUILDER (*continued, using the ruler*): What, am I distracting you?

FOOLISH BUILDER (*drawing*): No! Not at all. In fact, I'm almost done.

WISE BUILDER (*surprised, looking over at the FOOLISH BUILDER'S house plans*): Really?

FOOLISH BUILDER: Yep! And it's perfect. It's pretty near *perfect*.

WISE BUILDER (*curiously*): Let me see.

FOOLISH BUILDER: Don't change anything.

WISE BUILDER (*holding out hand*): Just let me see it.

The FOOLISH BUILDER shrugs and hands WISE BUILDER his/her house plans.

WISE BUILDER (*continued, sort of impressed*): Not bad.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*defensive*): You hate them.

WISE BUILDER (*laughing*): I don't hate them.

FOOLISH BUILDER: But look at these plans. The shape is perfect. Everything I want to do with this house is going to be gorgeous.

WISE BUILDER: But you gotta remember, too, that nobody's house is perfect.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*waving hand at WISE BUILDER's plans impatiently*): Come on.

WISE BUILDER (*startled*): What?

FOOLISH BUILDER: I want to see your design.

The WISE BUILDER, nervous and unsure, hands FOOLISH BUILDER his/her house plans.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*continued*): This isn't all that impressive.

WISE BUILDER (*rolling his/her eyes*): Thank you.

FOOLISH BUILDER: No, I'm serious. It's boring.

WISE BUILDER (*chuckling, taking back the house plans*): Why is it boring?

FOOLISH BUILDER (*pointing at the WISE BUILDER'S house plans*): All you have in those plans are floors, windows, and doors. And a roof.

WISE BUILDER: Because that's what I need.

FOOLISH BUILDER: But, look at mine (*holding out the plans*). See? A water slide. And skylights. And a movie theater that turns into a bowling alley.

WISE BUILDER: But aren't you just a little bit nervous?

FOOLISH BUILDER (*suspicious*): About...

WISE BUILDER: About your *land*?

FOOLISH BUILDER looks at his/her plans concerned, then raises his/her chin defensively.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*defensive*): My land is a prime piece of real estate.

WISE BUILDER: Says who?

FOOLISH BUILDER (*defensive*): What's the problem?

WISE BUILDER: *Why* is that land so prime? Who says? I mean, there's gotta be a catch, and I'm not convinced that you'd notice a *catch*. I'm worried about you.

FOOLISH BUILDER looks at plans, concerned.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*hesitant*): You think I've been had?

WISE BUILDER: Didn't you ask any questions? Did you ask your real estate agent why *that* piece of land is so *prime*? And so cheap?

FOOLISH BUILDER (*slowly*): Well...

WISE BUILDER: *Look at it!* (*Pointing off in the distance*) It's sand!

FOOLISH BUILDER (*excited*): I know! And it has a view! It's the ocean, friend! Who doesn't love the beach?

WISE BUILDER wants to say something, but doesn't. He/she shakes head, amazed.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*continued*): And anyway, what about you? You must be a little nervous about digging into a big 'ol Rock.

WISE BUILDER (*muttering*): A little.

FOOLISH BUILDER: I've been watching you. You spend hours on those plans. You spend more time with that foundation than you do with anything else.

WISE BUILDER: I think about it every day.

FOOLISH BUILDER: And I don't think it's worth it.

WISE BUILDER: I believe it is. My joy does not rest in having a house with bells and whistles. My joy rests in knowing that my house isn't gonna fall apart as soon as the wind picks up.

FOOLISH BUILDER leans in close, temptingly.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*shaking his/her paper plans, hushed as if telling a secret*): But, I have landscaping.

WISE BUILDER: But, *this (indicating own plans)* makes a whole lot more sense than...(*pointing to the FOOLISH BUILDER'S plan*)...that.

FOOLISH BUILDER is offended.

WISE BUILDER (*continued*): My footings need to be deep. My foundation needs to be unshakeable. I don't need a movie theater. I don't need a water slide. I need my house to stand up in the middle of a hurricane.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*laughing*): A hurricane! What kind of catastrophe are you predicting?

WISE BUILDER: You never know.

FOOLISH BUILDER: Yeah, well you *don't* know. And you worry too much, that's what I say. (*BEAT*) Listen. That Rock is hard. It'll hurt to dig so deep.

WISE BUILDER (*confidant*): If that's what it takes.

FOOLISH BUILDER: You don't have that kind of energy.

WISE BUILDER: But, I need the Rocky foundation. Anyway, you know I always take into consideration what the Lord has to say about these things.

FOOLISH BUILDER (*rolling his/her eyes*): Here we go. Meaning?

WISE BUILDER: Meaning, that He *means* what He says in His word. He says, "The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:5, 6) He knows that I need a Rock to build my house upon...before the rain comes tumbling town.

The FOOLISH BUILDER looks at the WISE BUILDER unimpressed.

FOOLISH BUILDER: Please don't sing.

The WISE BUILDER rolls up his papers and stands, laughing.

WISE BUILDER (*with great emphasis, to FOOLISH BUILDER*): I will say this...again..."My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; no merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand."

FOOLISH BUILDER looks at WISE BUILDER with raised eyebrows, unconvinced.

WISE BUILDER (kindly, pointedly): "All other ground is sinking sand."

WISE BUILDER exits. FOOLISH BUILDER frowns and looks at his plans again, thoughtful.

Lights down.