

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Jesus' story of the two houses—one upon the rock and one upon the sand—may remind your child of the story of the Three Little Pigs! In both stories, the firmly built house withstands the wild, destructive forces that threaten to engulf it, while the rickety house collapses under the same force. A moral application is obvious in both cases: we stand or fall on the basis of the care and forethought that we invest in our “house”—the home base of our lives, the shelter for our souls.

There are differences as well as similarities between Jesus' parable and the folk tale of the Three Little Pigs. Perhaps your child will note some of them. For the Three Little Pigs, the soundness of the house is based on the materials used by each piggy builder in turn: straw, wood, and bricks. The flimsy houses are those that are built most quickly and easily, leaving more time to dance and play; the durable house is the one that takes the longest time and the hardest work to build. The story's lesson plainly points to the importance of hard work, planning, and deferred gratification; and indeed, these are valuable and common-sense lessons about the realities of daily life.

Jesus' story, on the other hand, resists such simple moralizing. No distinctions are made between the houses themselves; they seem to differ only in their foundations. There is nothing to suggest that building a house on a rock is harder, takes longer, requires more skill, or costs more, than building one on sand. A simple choice, based not on hard work or self-control but on the intrinsic nature of the rock itself, and the sand itself, is all that lies between security and destruction. As the old spiritual declares, “*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.*”

If you and your child will be visiting the beach this summer, remember this parable when you play in the sand, and build sandcastles, and watch the waves and the tide bring the water closer and closer to what you have built. Invite your child to wonder about how Jesus is our Rock and our Fortress (Psalm 31:3), no matter what storms and waves come near us.

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Year A
PROPER 4
TRACKS 1 and 2



JESUS SAID, "LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY, AND DO IT."

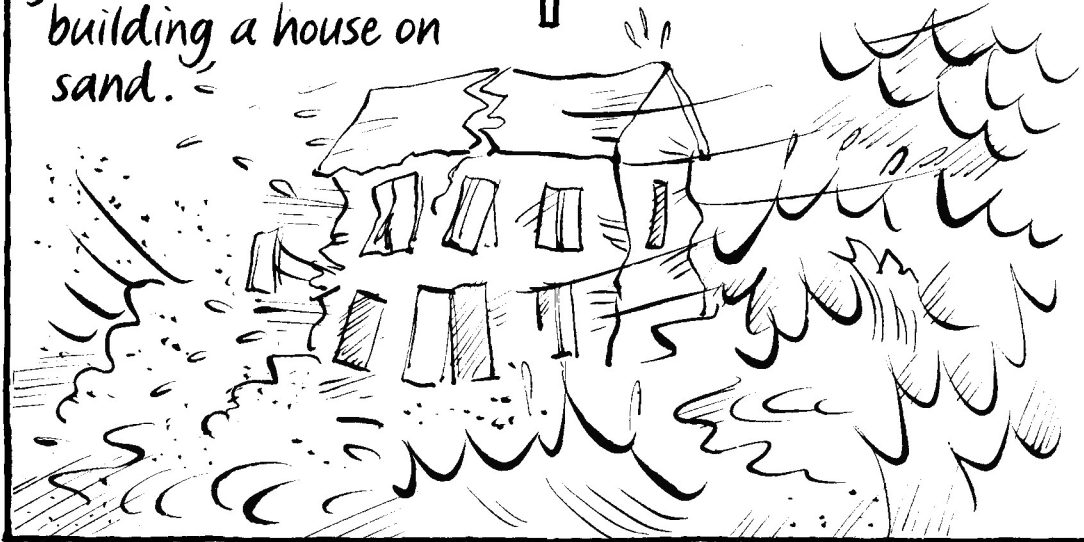
"Then you will be like someone who builds a house on a rock."

It will outlast storms and floods.



"If you do not listen, you will be like someone building a house on sand."

When storms come, it falls with a crash!"



Jesus said that his words and his ways are like a rock. A rock is strong and holds us up. It does not fall apart like sand.

Build your house on this rock.

