



House on the Rock

Welcome to the story of House on the Rock. As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Storm Makers**

The house on the rock and the house on the sand were hit by storms. Sit in a circle and make a storm together. Each person makes a storm sound, and the sounds go around the circle. Make the sounds louder and louder each time the storm goes around your circle. End with a raging storm that only a house with a rock-solid foundation is able to withstand.

- **Pass the Rock**

Form a line. Pretend that you are building a house with a rock foundation. There were no machines for moving rocks when the Bible was written, so you must pass very heavy rocks all the way down the line. Don't drop that heavy rock!

- **Foolish Fun**

What does it really mean to be foolish? Have you ever done something foolish? Share with the small group one time that you did something foolish. Remind kids that God loves everyone, no matter what they do.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- I wonder why Jesus told this story.
- What did the foolish man learn?
- Make a long list of ways that houses are built today. Was Jesus really talking about house-building in this story?
- Why is it important to hear what Jesus teaches?
- Are hearing and doing hard for you? Why or why not?
- Describe God's love.

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **No Hear Ears**

God calls us to hear and act. As you move to the next location, try to cover your ears so you cannot hear anything.

- **Do and Dance**

Pretend you have heard what God needs you to do and you are dancing. Dance to your next activity, celebrating that you can do what you have been asked.

- **Storytelling Stroll**

Stroll to your next place as your group tells the story of House on the Rock. The first person in line can tell one part. The second person will add on to the storytelling. Everyone should talk until the entire story is told. And keep on strolling.

- **Stormy Shelter**

The storm in the story was fierce. Some places have storm shelters. Pretend you are hiding from a storm. Cover your head with your arms and move fast. Look out! You are getting wet.

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- **Stormy Times**

Faith in a loving God helps us in stormy times. Take turns sharing a stormy time in your life. Share how others helped you.

- **Sandcastles**

As a group, design the perfect sandcastle. What would your house of sand look like? Where would you put your sandcastle? What happens to your sandcastle when the tide comes in with the waves?

- **Best Teachers**

Jesus was a wonderful teacher. We have many other teachers in our lives. Tell your group about some of your best teachers. Think about people who teach you about life. I wonder whom you could teach.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- How might someone who has no home feel when reading this story?
- Why is it important to have a solid faith in God?
- How can you be a hearer and doer?
- I wonder if God loves us, even when we are foolish.
- Why do you think Jesus used sand and rocks as examples?
- Why is a mountain a good place for a teacher to teach a story?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Sand Slide**

Sand can be slippery on the floor. Slide your feet sideways as if you are slipping on sand. Continue slipping and sliding to your next activity.

- **Rock in My Sock**

Have you ever had a small rock in your shoe or sock? It is so hard to walk. Ouch! Walk to the next location with a rock in your sock. Ow, ouch, ow, ouch!

- **Boom, Boom, Run!**

There is thunder in this story. Thunder is not continuous but gives a few big booms and then calms down. Cover your head and stop for two big thunder claps and then run until the leader says "Boom" again. Watch out for lightning!

- **Roaring Wind**

Sometimes, wind is said to roar like a lion. As you move ahead, roar like a lion. Keep roaring as the wind gets louder and louder.

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- **Hear and Do**

Play a hearing game of Simon Says. Simon will say, "Hear Simon say . . ." and add an action. Sometimes Simon will only say the action. If you hear the word *Simon*, follow the action.

- **Active Listening**

Listening is important in this story. Active listening means hearing what another says and then being able to repeat it. Form pairs. One person says a sentence. The other person says, "I heard you say. . . ." In this way, you can practice active listening.

- **Places of Learning**

Jesus taught this story on a mountain. Work together as a group to think of other places where Jesus taught. Then make a list of places where we can learn today.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- List all the ways you can hear Jesus' words.
- What do you think the scribes thought about the teaching of Jesus?
- How can you tell if a person's faith is on a strong foundation?
- What does it mean to follow Jesus? Is there only one answer?
- How does doing something help us learn it?
- I wonder what happens if you hear Jesus' words and do nothing.

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Climbing the Mountain**

Jesus taught from a mountain so everyone could see and hear. Work together to climb the mountain. Pretend you have to pull each person up the mountain on a rope to your next location. Rappelling!

- **Rock and Roll**

Rocks can roll easily. A rockslide is uncontrollable when rocks roll down a hill. Act like a rock, and roll to your next activity.

- **Shocked and Astounded**

The crowds were astounded at the teaching of Jesus. How does your face look when you are shocked and astounded? Move along with an astounded look on your face.

- **The House Fell Down**

The sand house fell down in the storm. Relocate by building a group house and collapse together on the count of the three. One, two, three . . . fall down!