



September 2026

Build your lives on the words of Jesus

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.



September's Teatime Church takes place on Sunday 27th September. The service is based on the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders – a story from the New Testament of the Bible. It can be found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. At this Teatime Church service, the children will be able to decorate rocks and make mini houses; create their own house pictures from lolly sticks; experiment with building cup houses on different surfaces; and enjoy playing with building rods and sand.



We will also be selling tickets for our **Harvest Festival Service**, taking place at Westbury-on-Trym Northcote Scout Hut on Sunday 4th October at 12pm. At this service, we combine Teatime Church with the festival. Teatime Church will gather from 12pm for a short activity then go into the main hall for a yummy hot lunch at 12:30. Attendance at Teatime Church is free, but if you would like to stay on for lunch then tickets are £5 for adults, £2 for children (aged 5+).

The Wise and Foolish Builders

This parable can be found at the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount, which is a famous collection of teachings by Jesus, found in chapters five, six and seven of the Gospel of Matthew. It contains Jesus' most well-known moral teachings and the Lord's Prayer.

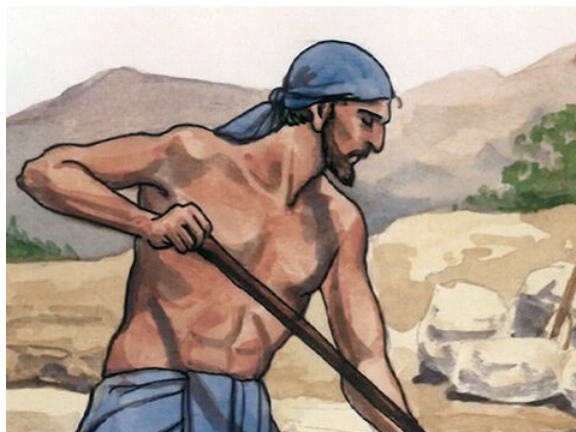


Sometimes, Jesus told parables to people. What is a parable? It's a story with a meaning – a story which helps us to understand God better. Jesus told them using everyday events and things that the people of the time would easily understand. For example, Jesus tells lots of parables about farming, shepherds, money and those in need – all things the people Jesus spoke to knew well.

Jesus told a parable about two men who each decided to build a house. The two men went out looking for the perfect place to build the house.

The first man was very wise. He thought carefully about the kind of house he wanted to build. He wanted a house that was strong. If a strong wind or heavy rains came, he did not want his house to break up or wash away. This wise man knew that the most important part of a house is the foundation. The foundation is the first thing that is built. It is 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. The rock could be the foundation for 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 talked about the other man who built a house. This man was foolish. He did not think carefully about the kind of house that 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.

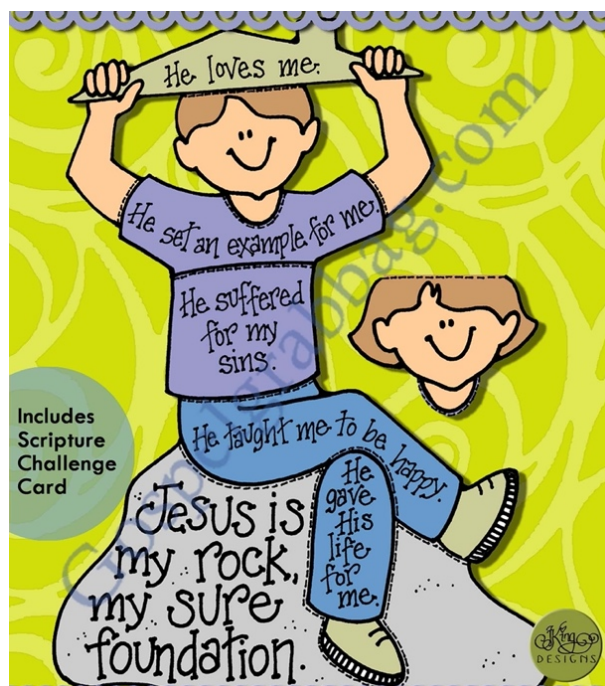
When the foolish man finished his house, he moved in. Guess what happened when the first storm came? The winds blew, and the rains came down, and the foolish man's house fell apart. It fell apart because it did not have a strong foundation.



After Jesus told the parable, he explained to the people what it really meant. Jesus taught the crowds how to follow God and how to love others. Some people really listened to him and responded to his words with actions. Some people seemed to listen yet they did not really care about doing what God wanted – their faith slipped away like the house on the sand.

To be like the wise builder, we all need to listen to God's words and to put them into action: speaking to God, following his example, learning about him, talking to others about him, standing up for him, being reflective, loving, kind and patient. Then we will all have the rock-solid foundation of a real relationship with him, just like those foundations on the house on the rocks.

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 to build a strong foundation of faith.



The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ "Everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them is like a wise man. The wise man built his house on rock. ²⁵ It rained hard and the water rose. The winds blew and hit that house. But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock. ²⁶ But the person who hears the things I teach and does not obey them is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on sand. ²⁷ It rained hard, the water rose, and the winds blew and hit that house. And the house fell with a big crash." Matthew 7:24-27

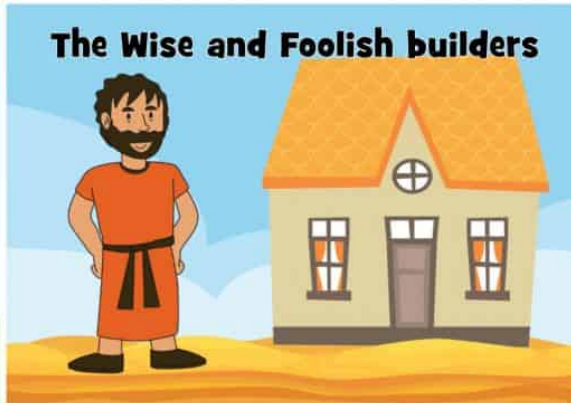


When Jesus finished his parable, He taught what it really meant.

Jesus said, "If you listen to my word and obeys them. You are like the wise man.

No matter which storms may come, you will be safe and secure."

4



Jesus told a parable about two men who needed to build a house.

The two men looked for the perfect place.

The first man loved the beach and chose to build his house on sand. It was easy to dig.

He thought it was a great idea

1



The second man was very wise.

He also loved the beach, but knew sand would not make a good foundation.

The wise man chose to build his house on a rocky hill.

It was hard work to dig and took a long time, but he knew his house would be safe on the rock.

2



One day, there was a huge storm.

The rain poured down and the winds blew with all their strength.

Soon the land became flooded.

The storm swept away the house on the sand.

But the house on the rock was safe.

3

Please click on the following links for videos all about this parable:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZolsqch-5A>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zvp6p4j>



You might also want to get a copy of this book, which is a very simple version of the story:



Our monthly prayers

This Bible story is called a parable because it has a special meaning. Jesus compared himself to a rock – he is the strong foundation for us. He explained that people who believe and trust in God – and act on his word – are making a wise choice, like the wise man in the story.

Take a moment to think about what choices you make. Wise choices usually lead to good/positive outcomes and foolish choices can lead to bad/unhappy outcomes.

Sometimes we don't know what is the wisest thing to do – that's when we need to stop and think, talk to other people and to ask God for help. Just what the foolish builder should have done.

Dear God,
Help us to make wise choices,
when we are working in our classes,
when we are playing with our friends,
when we are living in our homes.
Amen.

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us the Bible and for teaching us how to live.
Help us obey you and trust in you during difficult times.
Help us to act on your words in our everyday lives.
Amen

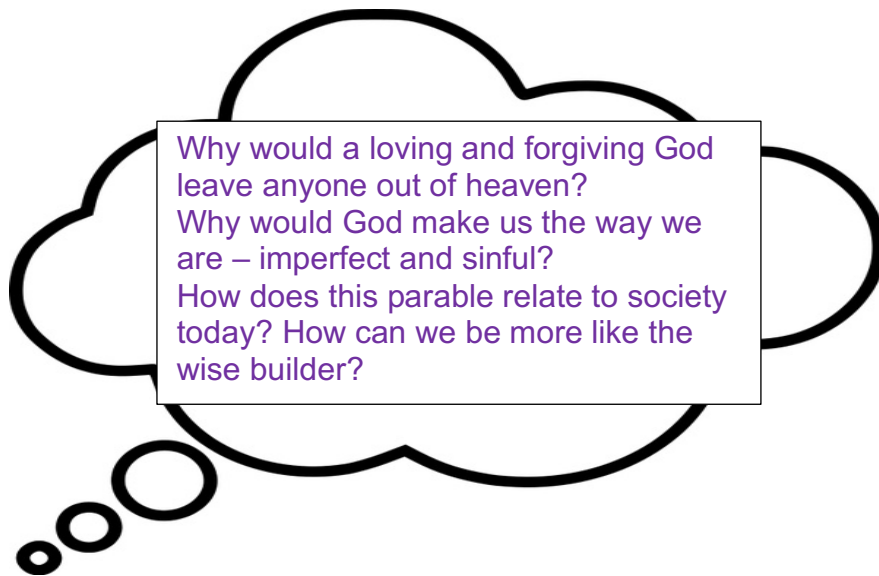
Community information

Toddlers Together: Our parent and toddler group



Toddlers Together, our parent and toddler group held at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church Hall, runs every Thursday 10-11:15am during term time. All are very welcome! Details can be found on our website <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/youth-and-family/parents-and-toddlers/>. The new term of Toddlers Together starts on 10th September.

Some questions for the whole family to think about at home...please do come to Teatime Church with any questions that you have.



Please click on the following link if you would like to donate to Westbury on Trym PCC to support the work and mission of Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym. Thank you
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/westbury-on-trym-holy-trinity-bristol/>

From Georgie and the Teatime Church Team
familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk



HOLY TRINITY
WESTBURY ON TRYM - BRISTOL

TEATIME CHURCH DATES 2026



Teatime Church is our monthly Sunday Service for children and families. It is a very relaxed service with a range of crafts, toys, LEGO corner, baby area, interactive songs, story and prayer. This is followed by supper for all the children and refreshments for the adults. There is plenty of opportunity to move around the church and make some noise whilst learning about God's love for everyone. All are very welcome!

Teatime Church is held at the back of Holy Trinity Church in Westbury-on-Trym from 4 - 5:15pm but you are welcome to join us during any part of the service.

Please visit our website for more details about specific services.

The dates for 2026 are:

11th January
15th February
8th March
3rd April: Good Friday Crafts
17th May
21st June
12th July
27th September
4th October: At the Harvest Festival
15th November
6th December

<https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/teatime-church/>

Email Georgie at familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk

Volunteers needed for our work with children and families



All of our children's services and events have started the new year with great success and we are always looking for volunteers to support us with our work in this area. We always need volunteers to help us with the following:

Monthly Teatime Church Service (helping with crafts or with supper)

Toddlers Together (helping with crafts or in the kitchen)

Open the Book (a storytelling project where Bible stories are shared in school assemblies in a fun, interactive and memorable way)

Barton Camp Annual Trip

For all volunteer roles in the church it is a PCC requirement that new volunteers go through a safe recruitment process. The safe recruitment process ensures that everyone is properly equipped to carry out their role. As well as safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, it helps to protect both the volunteer and the church. The process involves reading and signing a Volunteer Role Description, undergoing a DBS check and undertaking Safeguarding Training. Church Leaders will be able to guide you through this process if support is needed.

We are also looking for members of the 10am congregation to attend Baptism Services. The Baptism Supporters will make promises on behalf of the church congregation and hand out the special Baptism Bears. Baptisms take place roughly once a month on Sundays, starting at 12.15pm.

Please email Georgie in the first instance if you would like more information about volunteering at our children's services or groups or becoming a Baptism Supporter familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk



Do you love to sing?

JOIN OUR JUNIOR CHOIR

Develop singing and performance skills

Free musical training following the *Voice for Life* scheme of skills, including sight-singing, music theory, reading music and vocal tuition

Modern and traditional songs

Enjoy music and making friendships

Free to attend

No singing experience necessary

Led by professional musicians who are fully DBS-checked

To register, please contact Georgie at:
familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk

Starting 28th September 2026

For girls and boys aged 7+ (Y3 to Y8 +/-)

Held at Holy Trinity Church, BS9 3EQ

Mondays at 4:45 to 5:30pm with a break for refreshments

Term time only

<https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/choirs/>

