

Discovering God on Route 66

LESSON #47

BUILDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

PREP: Write each letter from the word *foundation*, on a separate half sheet of cardstock. Put the letters under **10 chairs** before the children arrive in class. *You can either tape the letters or use magnets if you have metal chairs.*

Make a simple drawing on the board of one wall from a brick building. The bottom layer should be one long solid piece for the “foundation”. *See example below.*

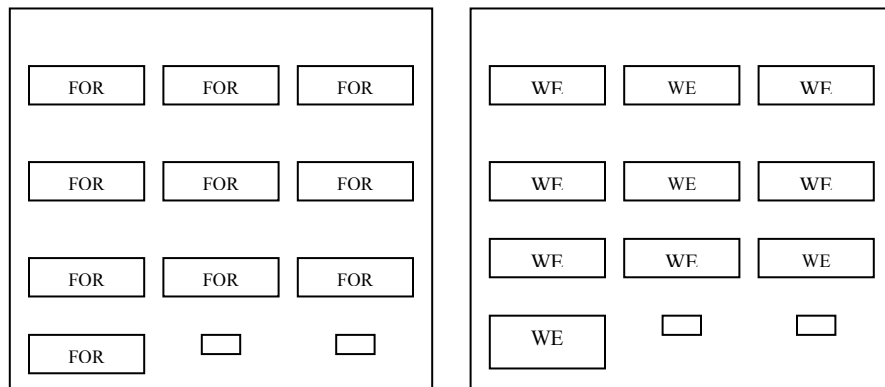
Bring building blocks for demonstrating the foundation. You will need various objects to build upon such as a pillow, a wooden chair with slats, etc.

Prepare 4 boxes with variations of playing cards and blocks as listed in the “RACE” section.

Make copies of the verse **I Corinthians 3:9** for each child anticipated. Multiples of 10 are recommended, meaning you should make either 10 copies or 20 copies or 30, etc. Print the verses on card stock – **OR** – Print on paper and glue to poster board. Cut out each of the 10 sections from the verse individually and laminate them or use clear contact paper. Adhere a square piece of Velcro to each section.

Now, use **thick** cardboard or **foam board** to make a verse holder for each child (*approximately 10” x 10”*). Simply stick long straight pieces of Velcro or at least 3 sections in 4 rows on each board. Be sure the Velcro is long enough to hold the entire verse or even possibly longer verses in the future. (*These boards were also used in Lesson #7 & 31.*) See diagram below. (*OPTION – If you don’t feel you have time to make the boards, then use tape and the inside of a folder for each child.*)

Make copies of FUNSHEET to pass out to the children at the end of class.



PRAY: Begin today's lesson with prayer that the children will not only understand the lesson but that they will apply the lesson to their lives.

OPEN: PREP: Write each letter from the word *foundation*, on a separate half sheet of cardstock. Put the letters under 10 chairs before the children arrive in class.

After praying, have the children look under their chairs for the letters. Allow those who have letters to come to the front of the room. Let all the children help “order” the ones with letters until they are able to unscramble the letters and discern that the word is *foundation*.

Explain to the children that today you will be teaching them about something very important in all of our lives – the proper foundation! Tell them what a foundation is.

Foundation: *an underlying natural or prepared base or support; that on which anything stands, and by which it is supported; the lowest and supporting layer of a structure*

Talk about some examples of foundations. If possible, have some pictures of foundations for a house or building.

Examples:

- Ground upon which a building is built is the foundation of that building.
- The alphabet is the foundation of writing words.

BIBLE: Since this is the first week the children will study from the book of **I Corinthians**, spend a few minutes reviewing. Ask to see if anyone knows who wrote the book. (*Paul*) Remind the children how Paul went on missionary trips to teach others about Jesus. One of the places that Paul went to was the city of Corinth. In this book of I Corinthians, Paul is writing a letter to the people of Corinth to encourage them to live as God desires.

Have the children turn to **I Corinthians 3:9-11**. Let 3 volunteers read these verses. Ask:

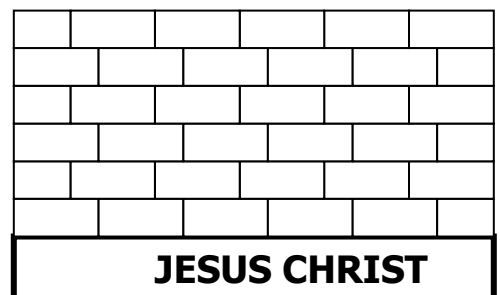
"What is Paul comparing Christians to?" (*God's field and God's building.*)

"What does it mean to lay the foundation?" (*To start the building with the most important part. Like when building a house, the first thing that must be done is to clear the land and dig so that there is perfectly even ground on which to pour cement for a solid foundation.*)

"Who laid the foundation of “God’s building” for the people in Corinth?" (*Paul. Remember he wrote I Corinthians. He had been to Corinth as a missionary.*)

"What is the foundation that Paul laid?" (*Jesus Christ*)

"How did Paul lay a foundation of Jesus Christ?" (*Paul taught the people of Corinth about the gospel of Jesus Christ. To be a Christian you must believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Then, Christ is the base or support to everything else you do as a Christian.*)



Refer to the “building” made of bricks on the board. Write “JESUS CHRIST” in the area that represents the foundation of that building.

"If we are this building, what are some other things that you think could be a foundation to being a Christian?" (*NOTHING but Jesus.*)

"Can you be a Christian by having something like love or good works as your foundation?" (*No. Love and good works are important but they do not cause you to be a Christian. They are not the foundation. The Bible says the foundation is Jesus.*)

Give examples of problems that occur because of using the wrong foundation. For example:

- The ground that a church was built on was not a firm, solid foundation. The church looked good from the outside, but there was a huge twenty foot crack in the floor of their Fellowship Hall. Part of the room sank and was about 6 inches lower than the other side of the room! Plus, the walls were starting to crack and the pressure damaged the pipes causing a lot of problems with the plumbing. The church had to spend thousands and thousands of dollars to make repairs to the foundation!!
- If a person only knew the Greek alphabet, he would not have the foundation for making English words.

DEMONSTRATION: Try to build with blocks on different foundations such as a pillow, a wooden slat chair, etc. The blocks will keep falling down.

Explain that if someone thinks he is a Christian because he goes to church, then he has built on the wrong foundation. This will cause him problems just like in the other examples. He will not be going to heaven like he thinks. Also, he will not understand things that happen at church or what the Bible really means.

Ask questions such as the following:

"Once you have made the decision for your foundation to be Jesus Christ by asking Him into your heart to control your life, what happens next?" (*Verse 10 - Someone can build upon that foundation.*)

"What does Paul mean in verse 10 when he says, 'But each one should be careful how he builds'?" (*Anyone who teaches must be very careful to teach about Jesus and the Bible and teach correctly.*)

Talk briefly about how pastors and teachers should be telling other people about what the Bible teaches! Also, children can often be teachers too -- when they tell their sisters, brothers, or friends what to do, it should be what the Bible says.

BIBLE: Have 2 volunteers read **I Corinthians 3:12,13**. Ask:

"What should be put on a foundation?" (*Gold, silver, and precious stones - not wood, hay or straw. These will burn up.*)

Ask the children to name some examples of "gold, silver, and precious stones" that could be built on a foundation. List the correct responses in the middle bricks of the building on the board. (*You will*

need to explain that gold, silver and precious stones are like symbols of good things we do for God.)
 Examples could include:

Worship Love Share Praise God Obey Parents	Learn Bible verses Study Bible stories Attend Church Go to Sunday school Help others	Pray Witness Give money to God Sing Christian songs Teach others
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Remind the children that things we do here on earth that God considers "wood, hay, and straw" will be burned up with fire when our deeds are tested in Heaven. In other words, the things we do on earth that are not done for Jesus will not matter once we get to Heaven. Tell the children how this may be hard to understand, but sometimes things that look great may actually be "wood, hay, or straw". Just like the church that looked wonderful on the outside, but inside it was falling apart.

Give some examples of "wood, hay, or straw". Let the children know that some of these are not necessarily "bad" things, but that they don't bring rewards in heaven:

- Becoming famous.
- Making a ton of money.
- Going to the lake instead of going to church.
- Giving a lot of money to church so everyone will like you and think you're rich.
- Coming to a Bible study just as an excuse to not do homework.
- Singing a solo in church so that everyone will notice you.
- Anything you do only for yourself and you do not care what God wants.

Some things may seem important to us now, but in heaven they will be tested and we will see whether they were truly for God or not – Like the example of the men who prayed in Luke 18:9-14 and the one did it just to look good. OR In **Matthew 6:2** (NIV)

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full."

RACE: Divide the children into four teams. Have each team sit together on the floor. Give each team a ruler. Tell the children that you will be giving each team a box with building materials inside. The first team to build a 3 story building that is at least one foot wide wins. Now place a different box in front of each team. Do not let the teams open their boxes until you say go. Each of the boxes should contain the following:

- BOX #1** - cards
- BOX #2** - cards and a few blocks
- BOX #3** - blocks and a few cards
- BOX #4** - blocks

After a team wins, probably team #4, have the children return to their seats.

DISCUSS: Now talk about what the game meant. Read **I Corinthians 3:14** about rewards. *Ask:*

"Who will receive the greatest rewards in heaven?" *(Those Christians who have built with "gold, silver, and precious stones".)*

"Do you think your only reward will be in Heaven?" *(No. Many times God rewards us with things like a blessed and long life, peace, contentment, joy, friends, food, fun times, love, etc. here on earth.)*

"Are the cards like 'gold, silver, and precious stones' or like 'wood, hay, and straw'?" *(Wood, hay, and straw.)*

"Which building material was easier to build 3 stories high?" *(Blocks)*

Explain how the Bible is truth yesterday, today, and tomorrow. If we build with what the Bible says, not only will we be rewarded in Heaven but the things we do on earth will be better and last longer.

"Can you build with blocks on top of cards?" *(No.)*

"What will happen?" *(The cards will fall.)*

"What does that show if the blocks are like what the Bible says and the cards are not?" *(In order to build the truths of God in your life, you must break down any beliefs you have that are not like the Bible.)*

If you have mostly older children, then give some examples of "truths" the world says as compared to what the Bible says. Say what the world says and then see if the children can tell what the Bible would say.

BIBLE:	WORLD:
Put God first in your life. <i>(Matt.6:33)</i>	Take care of #1 (yourself) "Have it your way."
Discipline is both necessary and good. <i>(Prov. 3:11,12)</i>	Parents are mean if they spank or discipline. They will spoil the child's creativity.
Keep yourself pure and only put good things in your mind. <i>(Rom.12:2 & Col. 3:2)</i>	It's okay to do whatever you want. Watching shows or playing games with fighting or cussing is fine.
We are not to have anything to do with ghosts or demons or astrology.	Witches, ghosts, demons, and horoscopes are harmless fun.
Our goal in life should be to become more like Christ and glorify God.	Getting the biggest and best house, car, and job is our goal in life.

GAME: Hold up the verse **I Corinthians 3:9** for all the children to read aloud together.

**For we are God's fellow workers;
you are God's field, God's building.
*I Corinthians 3:9 (NIV)***

Review the verse, and then explain the game.

The final preparations for this game should be done by another worker as the lesson is taught since the number of children will not be known ahead of time.

→ If there is an even multiple of ten children, then put **10** of the same verse sections on each child's board. For example: One board will have 10 "Salvation". The next board will have 10 "is". The last board will have 10 "Acts 4:12".

→ If there are even groups of nine children, then give each child **9** of the same sections plus **Acts 4:12**.

If there are other varying numbers of children other than the two above, here are suggestions:

→ Allow leaders to play, not to win, but to participate in trading.

→ Allow younger children to play in pairs.

→ Have an "unmanned" board or two at the front and back of the room.

PLAY: Give each child a board with 10 of the same sections of the verse adhered (*or as explained above*). When you say "Go!" the children will trade sections of the verse with one another. The winner of the game is the one who has **all** the sections in correct order first. If time remains, play again. Kids will better understand the game and they always love another chance at victory.

To the right is an example of what the winner's board should look like. You may want to show this example to the children.

FOR	WE	ARE
GOD'S FELLOW	WORKERS;	YOU ARE
GOD'S FIELD,	GOD'S	BUILDING.
I CORINTHIANS 3:9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CLOSE: Provide an opportunity for the children to ask questions and talk about how they want to build on their foundation. Also give them a chance to choose salvation where Jesus is the foundation. Pass out this week's FUNSHEET. End with prayer.

FOR

YOU ARE

WE

GOD'S

GOD'S FIELD,

BUILDING.

GOD'S FELLOW

ARE

WORKERS;

I COR 3:9

