

# We Are the Reason

## Lesson 1—The Foundation of Faith

Bible Passage: Matthew 6:33; Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 7:24-27

Key Verse: Jeremiah 29:11—“For I know the plans I have for you”—this is the Lord’s declaration—“plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Today’s lesson is very different from normal. In today’s session you will be leading your class in building a Graham Cracker House. Each class will be supplied with everything you need (i.e., frosting, graham crackers, candy decorations—enough so that, yes, the students can snack on them while they build, as well as cardboard for your house to sit on.) You can either build your house on a table or desk or on the floor. As you work you will be teaching in a very interactive way as you will see as you study the lesson.

Depending on the character of your class you might be able to lead the lesson while they are building or you might have to periodically stop and discuss the spiritual applications. When you are finished there will be tables set up on which to display your class’ house. This will be a very fun lesson and it’s important that you have fun with your students.

However, in the middle of the fun please don’t neglect the lesson. Our purpose is not just to have a fun time but to deepen group unity and to help our students consider on what foundation they’re building their lives.

### BEFORE CLASS



**Preparation:** *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- What is the foundation of your life? Is Jesus your top priority?
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to follow up on students who have recently missed on Sunday morning.

### CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

*CONTACT 1--The first time a student is absent, give him a call.*

*CONTACT 2--Following the second absence, send him a postcard.*

*CONTACT 3-- The third week they are absent, pay him a visit.*

*THINK ABOUT IT: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, “It really doesn’t matter if you’re here or not.” Small things communicate great messages. Let the three “small” things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.*

- Use labels and postcards to reach out to your class. You may also want to send Christmas cards to your students.

## OPENING ACTIVITY

SAY: Today is going to be a very different day. As a group we are going to build a graham cracker house. We want to be creative. We can make it as big as we like. We can decorate it however we like. So first we need a plan.

*Discuss your plan and then begin building your class' house. The first thing you'll need to do is to cover the cardboard with the aluminum foil.*

## Discussion

The following are discussion questions to casually use while your group is building the house:

- *What is your family doing for Christmas this year? (i.e., going to grandma's house, etc.)*
- *What does your family usually do on Christmas--Does your family have any Christmas traditions?*
- *What is your favorite Christmas memory?*
- *What is the best or most memorable present you ever received?*
- *What do you think this activity has to do with your life? See how many illustrations your class can come up with using this activity to illustrate the truths of God's Word.*

## KEY VERSES

### Spiritual Applications for the Activity

*Use the following applications at different times during the Graham Cracker House building session.*

### First Things First

*What if we had not covered the cardboard with aluminum foil? It would be too late now—In other words to build something right you must put first things first. You can't build a roof until you've built your walls. In the Christian life, you must always put first things first. *What do you think I mean by this? As a Christian what things should you always put first?**

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Matthew 6:33

- *What does this verse mean?*

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Luke 10:38-42

- *What was the “one thing” that Jesus was saying is necessary? (A one-on-one relationship with Him.)*
- *What had Martha made most important? (Serving others, which is a good thing but not the most important thing. Our service will be hollow if it doesn’t come as the result of having been with Jesus.)*
- *What are some things you see others your age put first in their lives?  
School • Friends • TV • Family • Sports • Other? (None of these are “bad” things but none of them are the “one thing” that matters most of all.)*
- *What things have first place in your life?*
- *How can you tell? (What you say doesn’t show what is most important to you, but how you live. What gets your time usually shows what is most important to you.)*
- *Do you think you are building your life in the way that God desires? Why or why not?*

### God’s Blueprint

- *What’s our plan for this house? What do you think is God’s plan for your life?*

#### Choose a volunteer to read—Read Jeremiah 29:11-13

- *How do you think God plans to give you a “future and a hope”?*
- *How does the birth of Jesus fit into this plan?*
- *What do you have to do to be a part of this plan?*
- *This plan begins by you giving your life to Christ. Who would like to share your salvation testimony with us about when you gave your life to Christ?*
- *After giving your life to Christ, God’s plan for you is to be baptized and to begin growing closer to Him, putting first things first. Who would like to share ways you feel that you’ve recently grown closer to Christ?*
- *What is God doing in your life right now? What’s He teaching you? How have you been spending time with Him?*
- *God has a very specific design for your life. What else do you think this plan includes?*

## BIBLE LESSON

*SAY:* Let's stop building our house for a few moments and take a look at the main thing I want you to learn from this activity this morning.

*Choose a volunteer to read—***Read Matthew 7:24-27**

- *What was the difference between those who built their house on the Rock and those that built it on the sand?* (The difference is between those who just hear His word and those who hear and act on His words. Lots of people come to church and hear God's Word but they aren't doers of God's Word.)
- *Describe to me someone whose life is built on the Rock?* (They're building their lives on Jesus.)
- *Describe to me someone whose life is built on sand?* (They haven't put first things first. Jesus isn't the most important thing in their lives. They're living for other matters that aren't solid, that won't last and won't support their lives. In time these "other things" will wash away but a person's relationship with God is like the Rock that will last forever.)
- *ANSWER THIS TO YOURSELF: The way you are living right now, are you just a hearer of God's Word or are you a doer of God's Word? Is your life built on the Rock or on the sand—things that won't last. Is Jesus first in your life and more important than everything else or have other matters become more important to you?* (How you live determines where you stand!)

## WRAP IT UP

**SAY:** You are the reason that Jesus was born—but not just to give you a good life and not to make you just a hearer of His word, but to give you His life and to make you a doer of His works. This Christmas, let Christ come first.

## Prayer Time

*Pray specifically today that your students will build their lives on the Rock and that they will experience Christmas by knowing Christ.*

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

## Prayer Requests

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