

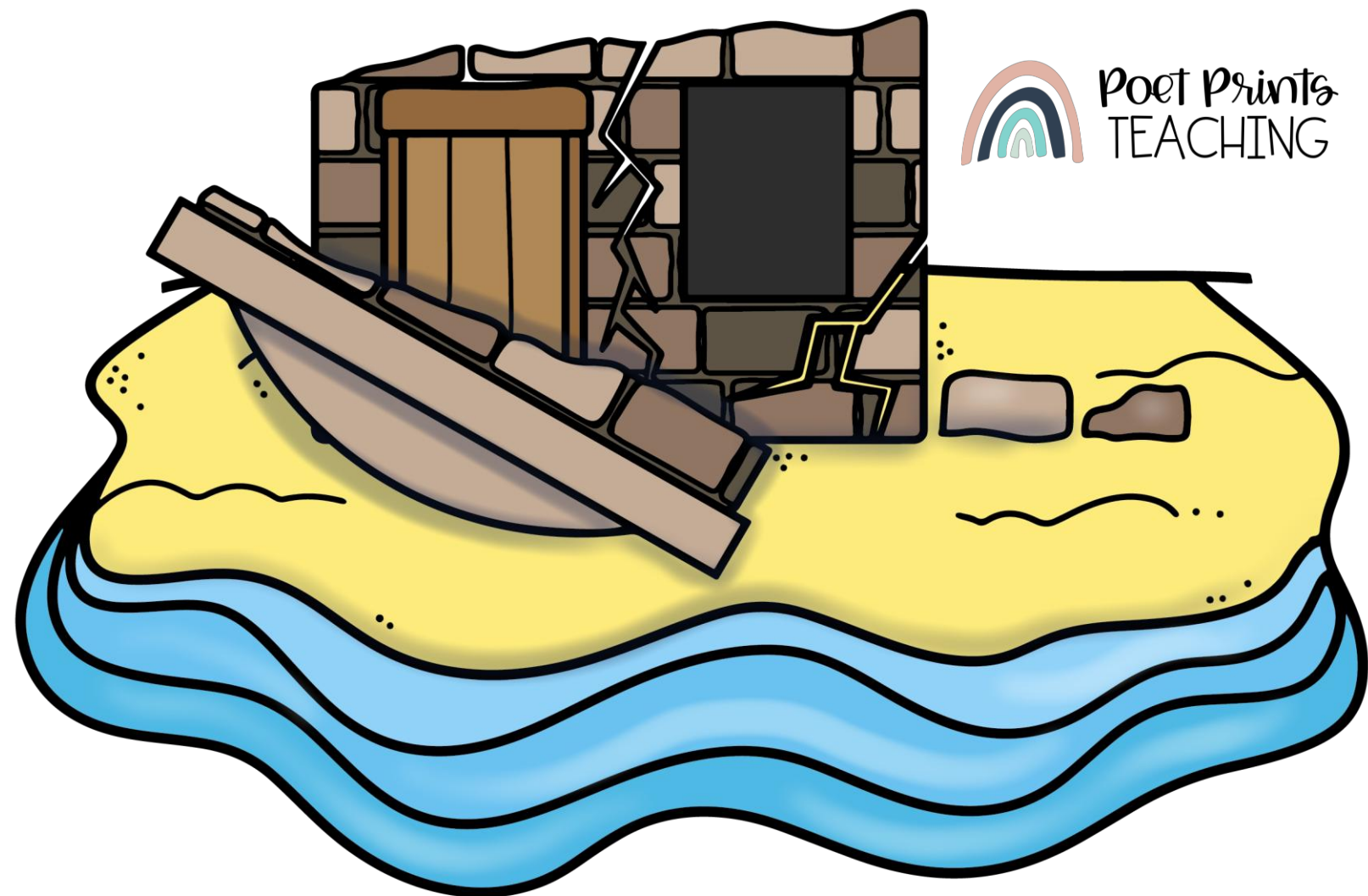
EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

THE PARABLE OF

THE WISE AND

FOOLISH BUILDERS

A BIBLE LESSON FOR KIDS





The Wise and Foolish Builders

This packet was designed to be an easy way to teach foundational Bible stories to kids in first, second, and third grades. Each lesson in this series is structured the same and can be taught in about 40 minutes!

Step One: Read or watch the Bible story.

Gather your group together and read the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders from your children's Bible or preferred translation of the Bible. It can be found in Matthew 7:24-27.

If you'd rather watch the story, many animated Bible stories are available for free on YouTube. Search "Wise and Foolish Builders Bible Story for Kids" in the YouTube search bar. Be sure to watch the video fully before showing it to your class to be sure it's appropriate.

Background Information:

A parable was a short story that Jesus used to teach people about God. These stories helped people to understand what Jesus was saying because He connected the stories to the people's everyday lives. Parables can also be easier to remember than long speeches.

The Basics:

In the area where Jesus was teaching, there were low valleys that would often flood during storms. A foolish builder wouldn't consider building a foundation to protect their home. A wise builder would make sure the home was built on a solid foundation (the base of the house) so their home wouldn't be swept away. People in Jesus' time would have understood this concept well.

More in Depth:

Jesus told this parable at the end of his famous Sermon on the Mount. This sermon is recorded in Mathew 5-7. It outlines how a person should live – how they should love God and love people.

This parable isn't really about building a strong home. It's about building a strong relationship with Jesus and listening to His teachings. It's great to go to church, sing worship songs, pray, and read the Bible. These are all important and good things to do. However, we also need to follow what Jesus instructs us to do. We need to love God and love others. Our actions need to match what Jesus instructs.

After you read the story, share some of the background information above with your kids to help them gain a deeper understanding of the story.

Step Two: Explore the parable.

After reading or watching the parable, use the retell the story worksheet to retell the main parts of today's story. This can be done individually or in small groups. If you don't want to print out these worksheets, you can also map out the story together on a piece of large paper or a whiteboard.

The Wise and Foolish Builders: Quickly map out the 4 main parts of the story.

1. A man builds a house on sand
2. The house collapses when the rain comes
3. Another man builds a house on rocks
4. The house stays firm when the rain comes

Then, talk through the discussion questions as a group.

The Wise and Foolish Builders	
1	2
3	4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	
QUESTION #1 What happens to sand when it gets very wet? Imagine pouring a bucket of water on a sandcastle. What would happen?	QUESTION #2 What happens to rocks when they get wet?
QUESTION #3 Why should a house be built on a firm foundation?	QUESTION #4 What does this story teach us about God?

The Wise and Foolish Builders



Step Three: Do the craft/activity.

Before the lesson, buy some bags of mini marshmallows and toothpicks and print out the [planning worksheet](#) that works best for your group. If you are doing the paper craft, print out craft templates for each child and gather scissors and coloring materials.

Building Challenge

Challenge kids to use toothpicks and marshmallows to create a sturdy structure. Depending on the dynamic of your group, this could be done in a small group or as an individual activity.

Encourage kids to use [the planning sheet](#) to sketch out their design before they begin construction and revisit the planning sheet as they create and tweak their structure.



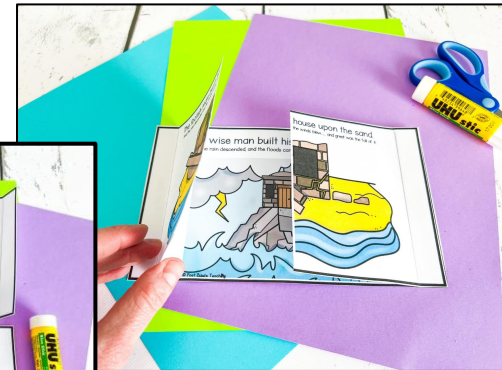
Take it a Step Further

To make the activity a little more difficult, challenge your students to create a tall structure that can withstand a blow dryer at full power (though not full heat) for 10 seconds. When kids are done building, use a blow dryer on a cool setting to try and knock the tower down. (HINT: Towers with a wide foundation are less likely to move!) If you still have time, encourage your kids to tweak their designs and try again. **A separate planning worksheet is provided for this version of the activity on page 9.**

Printable Craft Option:

This lift-the-flap booklet shows both houses from the parable. The front of the craft shows the house built by the foolish man; lift the flaps to see the one built by the wise man.

1. Cut out both pages along the solid rectangular line
2. Cut the dotted line on the foolish man page so that it is in two pieces
3. Fold the flaps on the foolish man page and glue the flaps on the spaces marked "glue here" on the wise man page.



Worship While You Work

Anne Wilson's song "This House" is roughly based on this parable and is the perfect worship song to play as your students build their structures. [Here's a link to it on YouTube.](#)

Step Four: Finish with the take-home worksheet.

The 'Wise and Foolish Builders' coloring page is the perfect way to wrap up the lesson and create a take-home page that includes caregivers in what you have learned. Students will color a picture, write down their memory verse, and add the key takeaway (a "big idea") from the story.

Memory verse suggestion from the story:

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his found on the rock. Matthew 7:24 NIV

Big idea suggestion: Listening to God's word is wise.



The Wise and Foolish Builders

Name: _____

1

2

3

4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTION #1

What happens to sand when it gets very wet?

Imagine pouring a bucket of water on a sandcastle. What would happen?

QUESTION #2

What happens to rocks when they get wet?

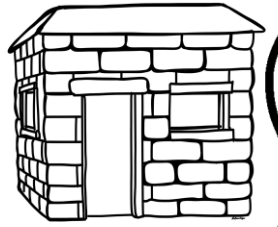
QUESTION #3

Why should a house be built on a firm foundation?

QUESTION #4

What does this story teach us about God?

BUILDING CHALLENGE



Name: _____

MATERIALS:

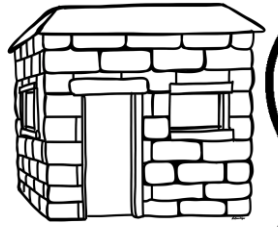
What will you use to build your structure?

SKETCH YOUR IDEAS

In the space below, sketch what you plan to build.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw their building plan.

BUILDING CHALLENGE



Name: _____

SKETCH YOUR IDEAS

In the space below, sketch what you will build.

Did it stand up to the blow dryer?

☐

YES

☐

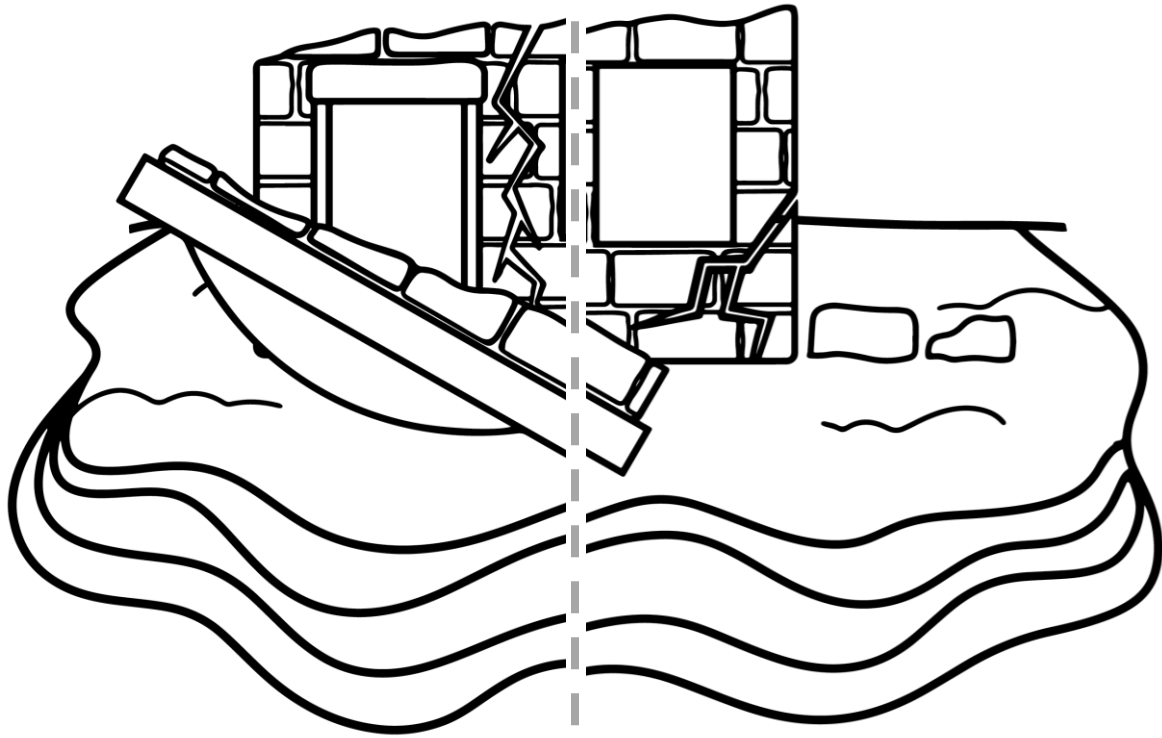
NO

CHANGE YOUR DESIGN

How will you change your design to make it more stable?
Sketch it below.

The foolish man built his house on sand.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew... and it fell with a great crash.



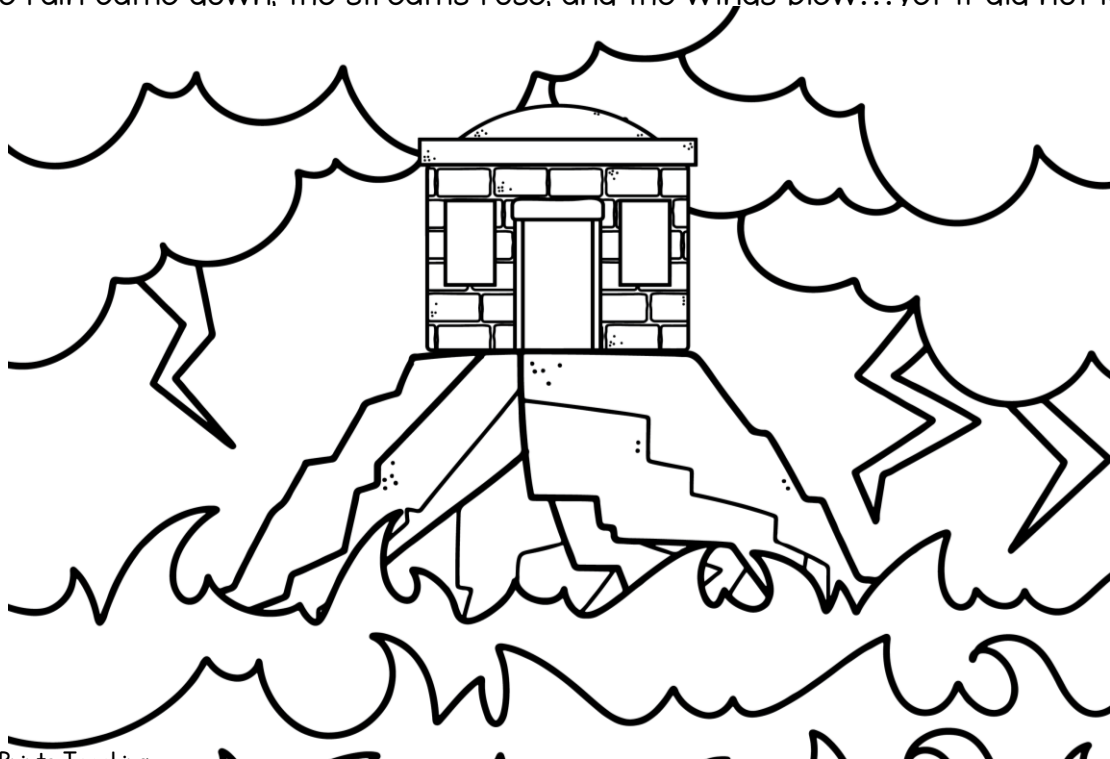
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fold this line

The wise man built his house on the rock.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew... yet it did not fall.

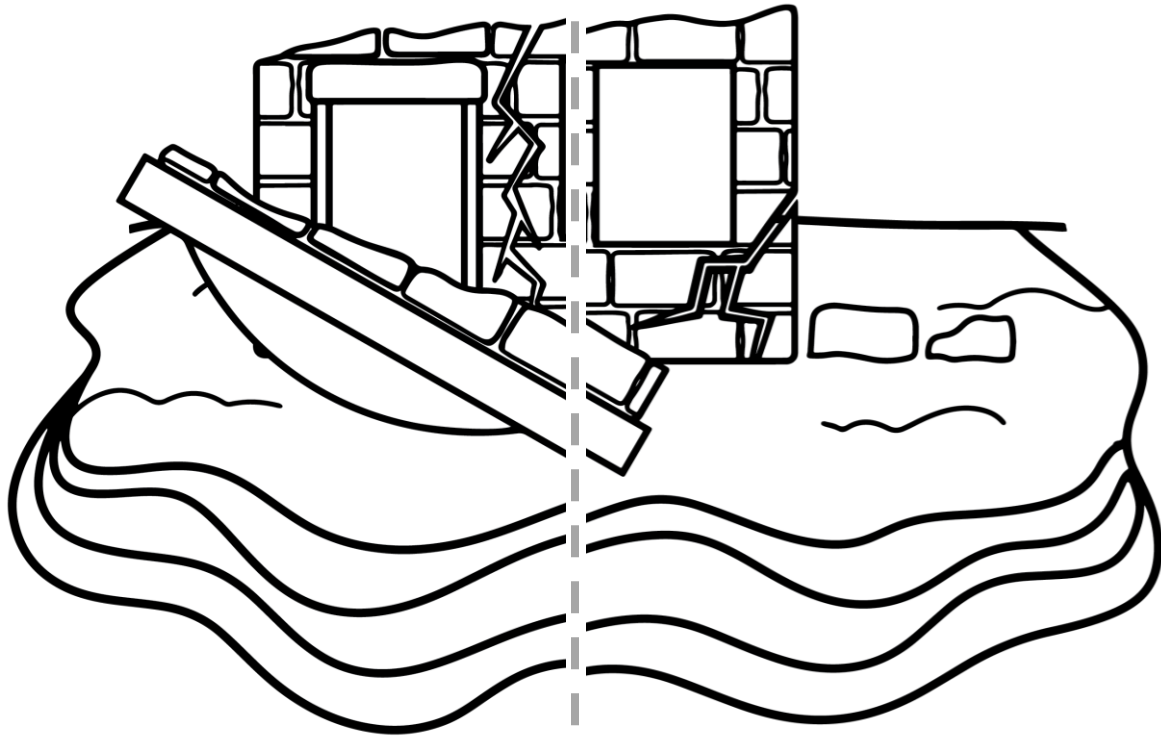


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The foolish man built his house upon the sand.

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew... and great was the fall of it.



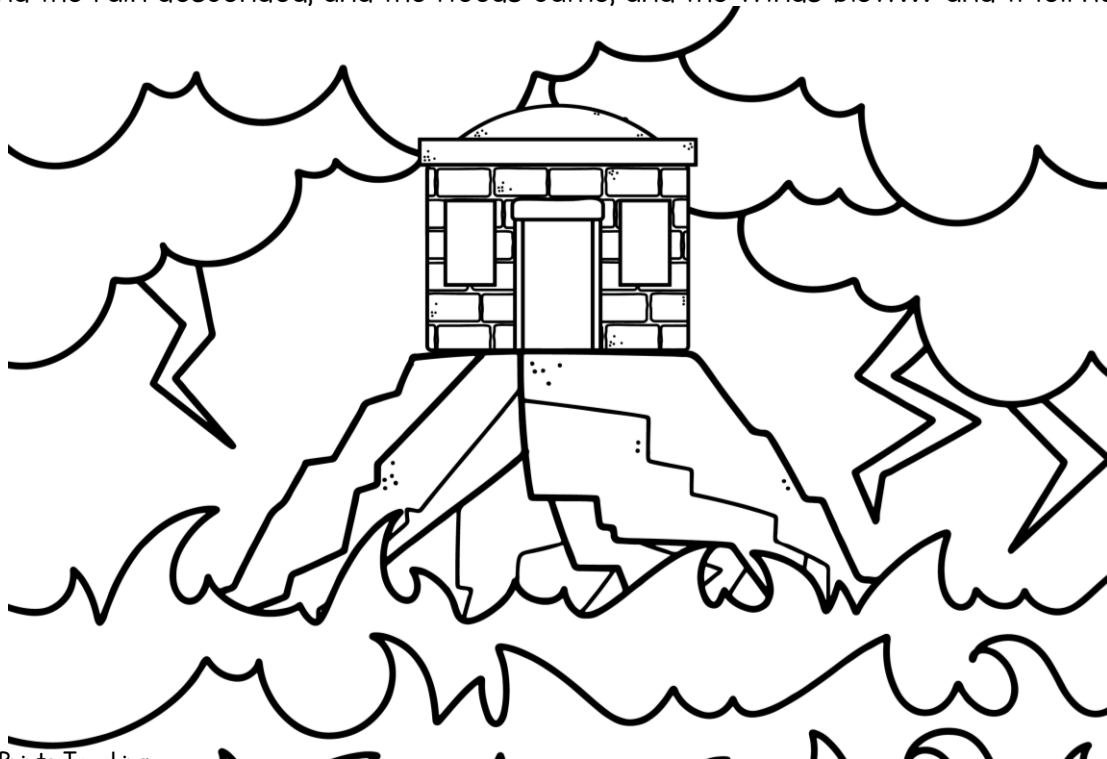
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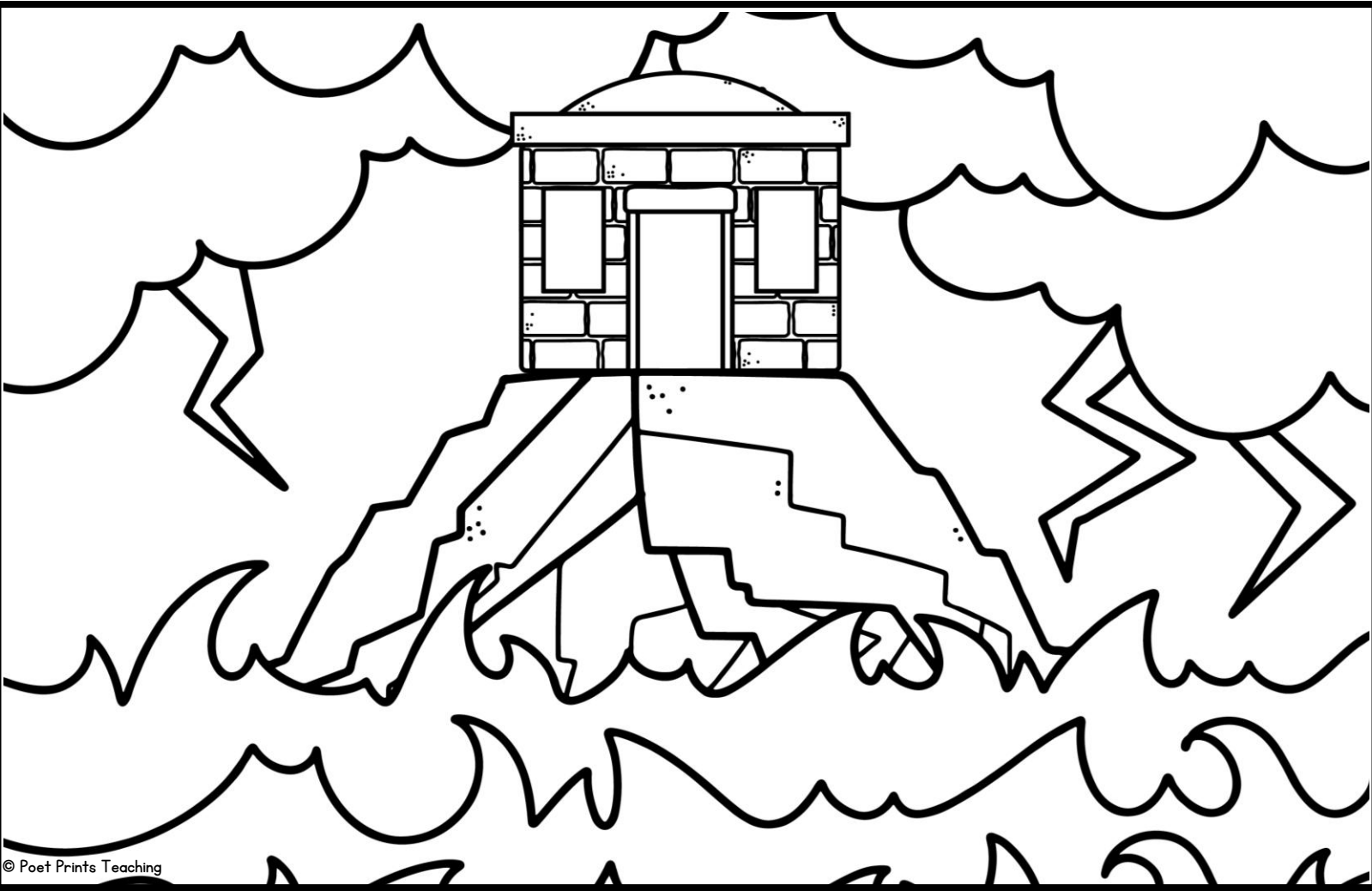
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THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS



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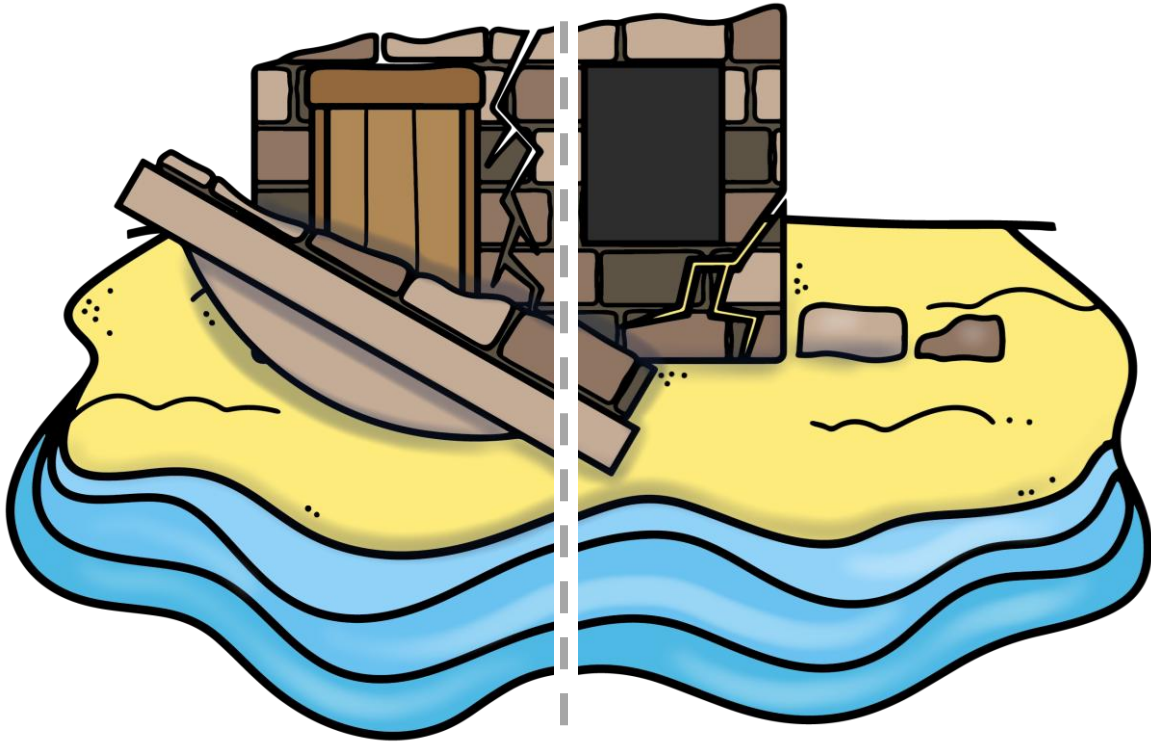
MEMORIZE THIS:

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

The foolish man built his house on sand.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew... and it fell with a great crash.



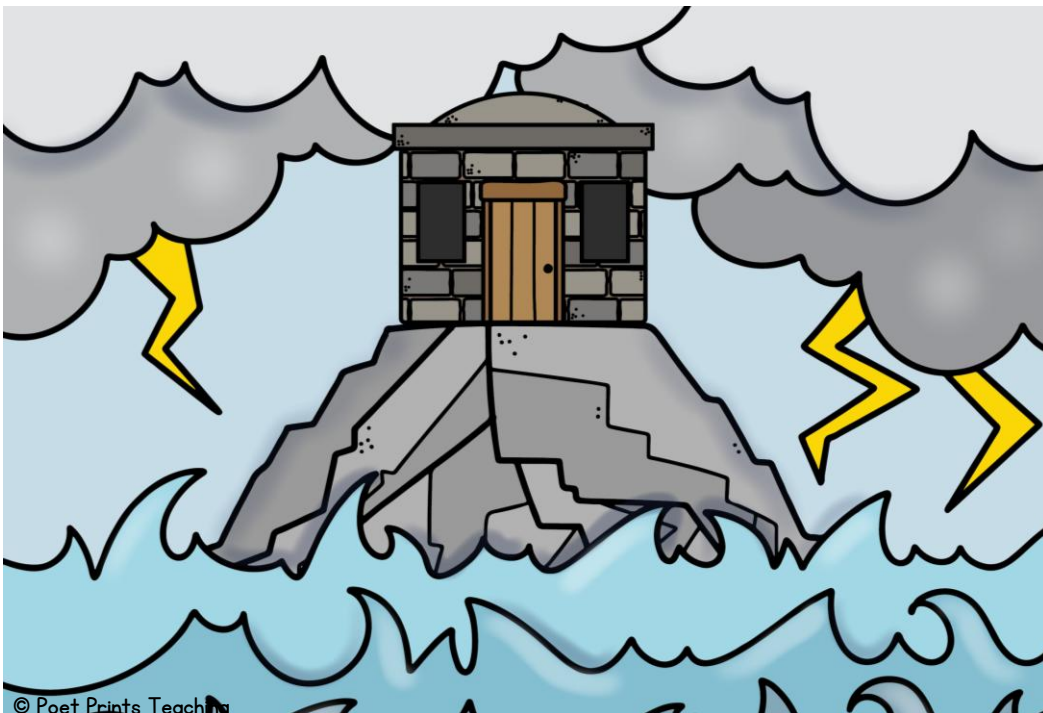
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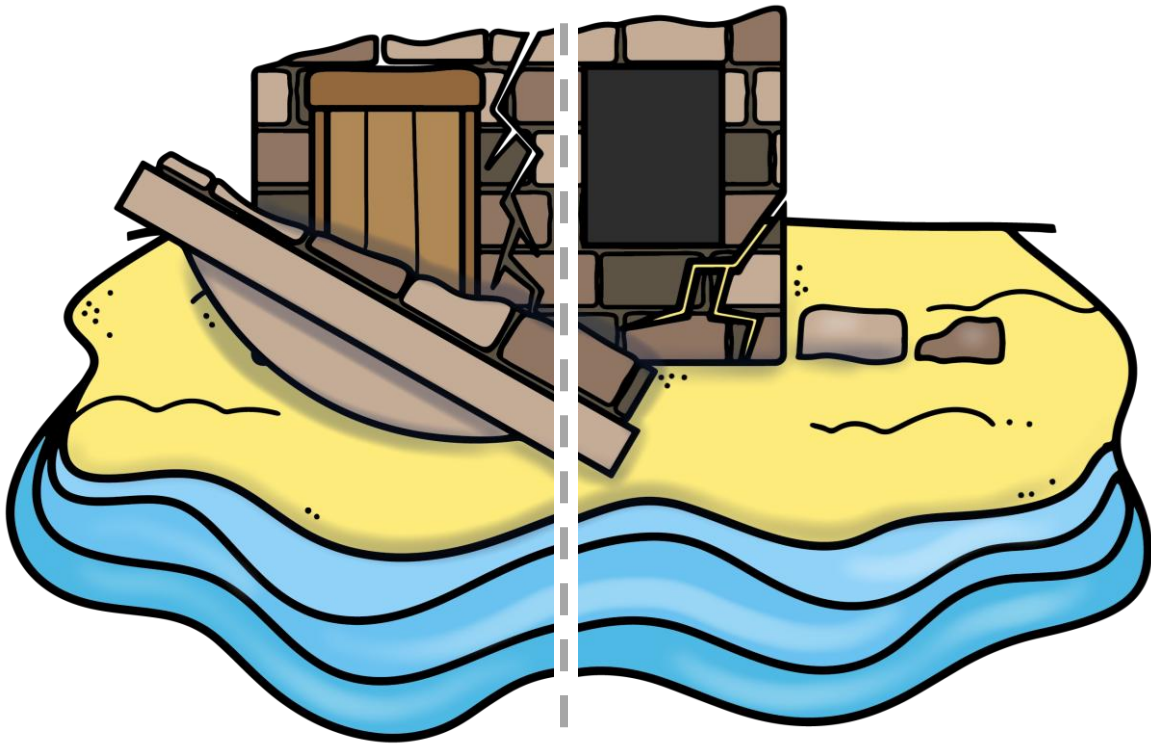


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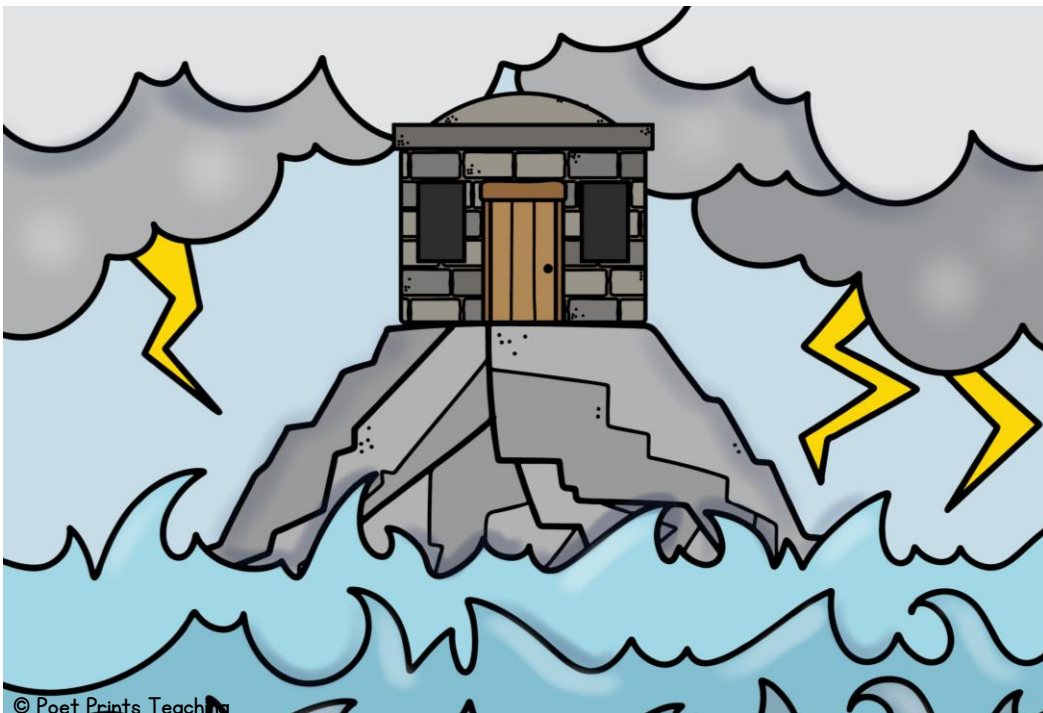
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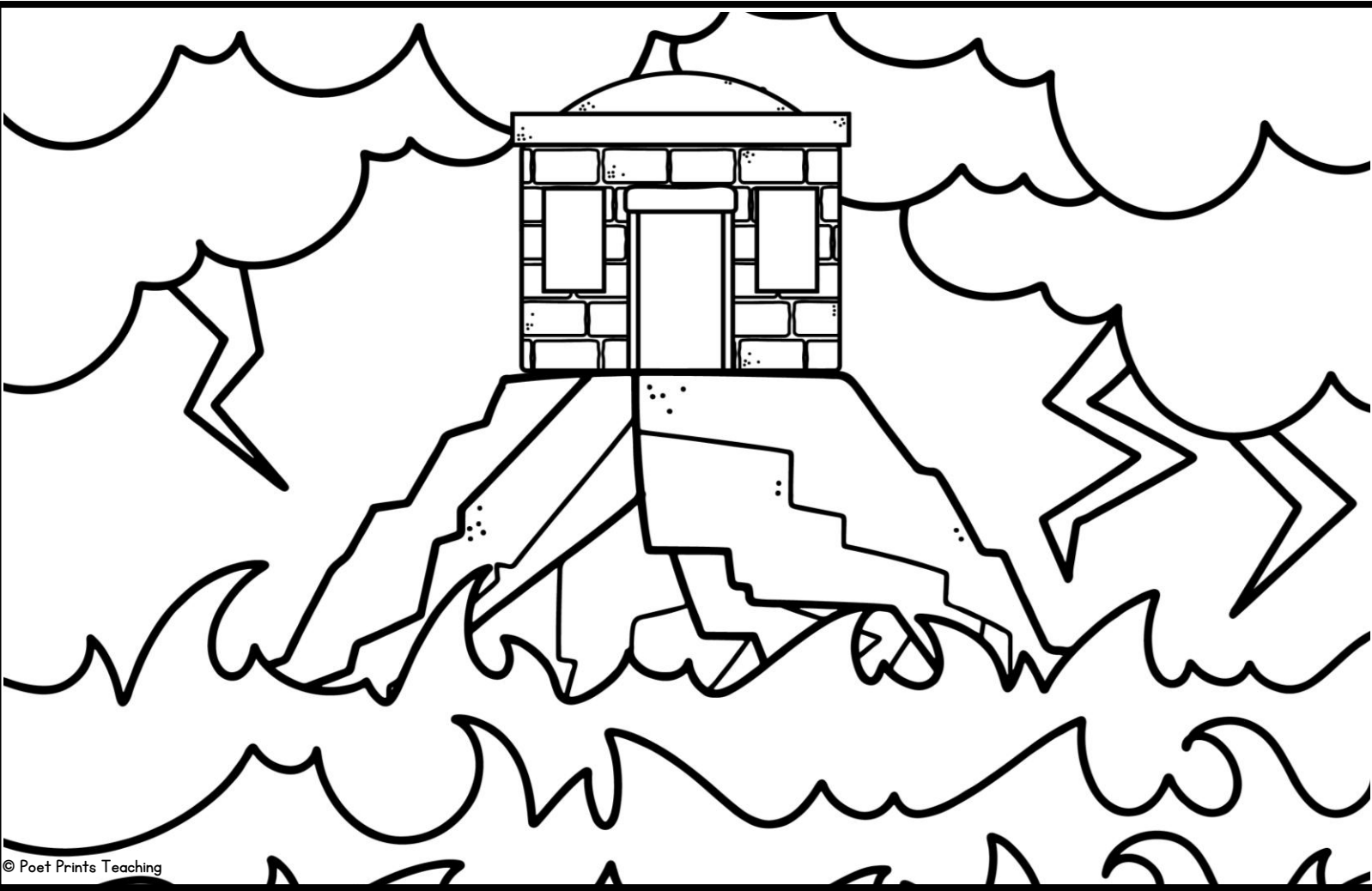
And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew... and it fell not.



glue here

glue here

THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS



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MEMORIZE THIS:

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.

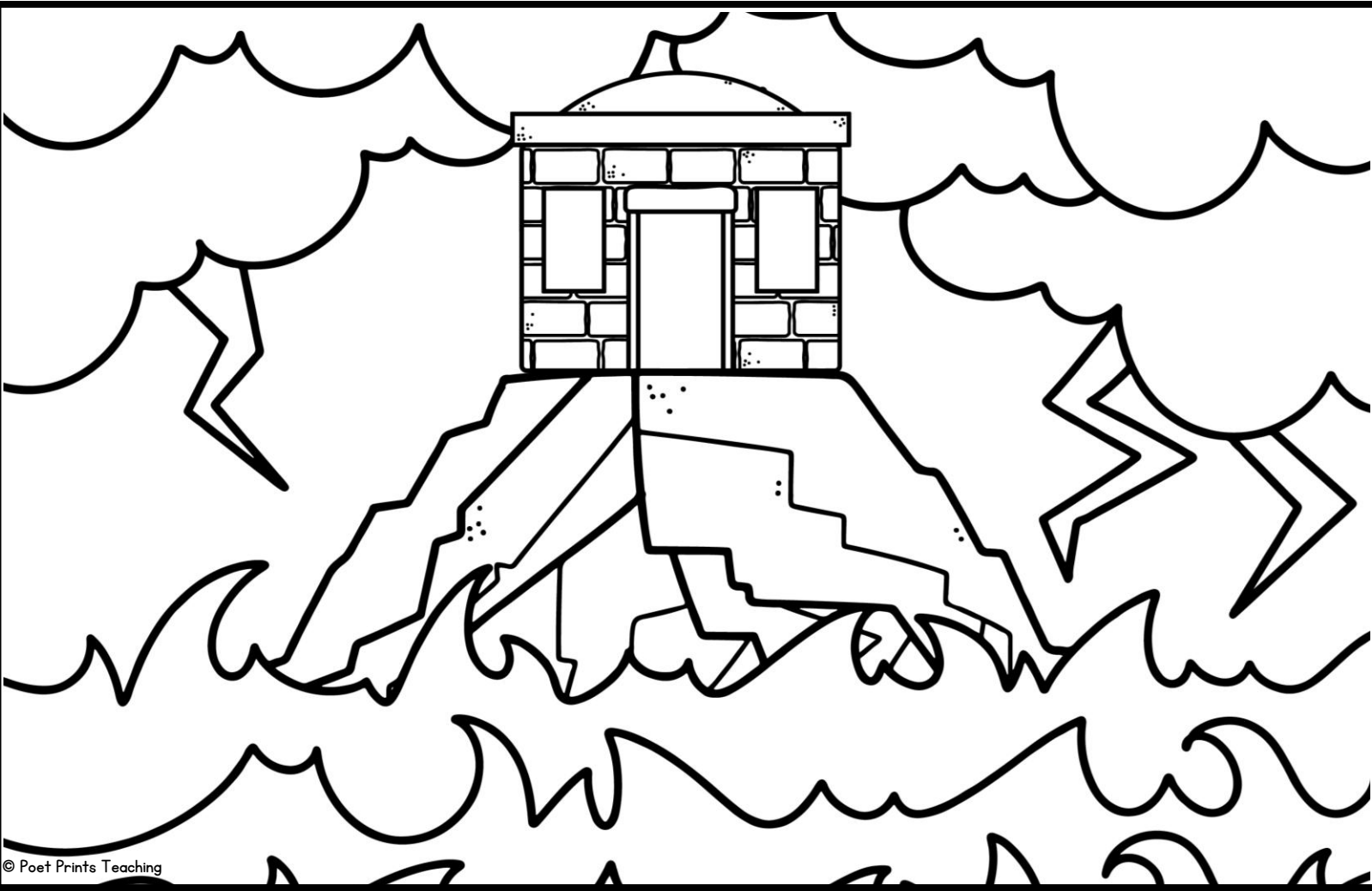
Matthew 7:24 NIV

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

Listening to
God's Word
is wise.

THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS



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MEMORIZE THIS:

Therefore whosoever
heareth these sayings of
mine, and doeth them, I
will liken him unto a wise
man, which built his house
upon a rock.

Matthew 7:24 KJV

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

Listening to
God's Word
is wise.