

Christian Character Lesson Plans

Lesson #1 – Introduction to Christian Character

All Ages



Preview

Detailed, introductory lesson for all ages provides a visual presentation of basic Christian character as a wall you build into your life, with individual boxes representing particular Christian character traits. Optional assessment, in the form of a game requiring participation by all, shows current grasp of character. Lesson closes with an application of the biblical house-on-the-rock-house-on-the-sand story given by Jesus. Coloring page included for use with lower age levels.

Suggestion: Read through the lesson and prepare well before class time.

What you will need:

- 10 or more unmarked boxes you can stack to create a wall
- 1 more box on which you will write the word **HONESTY**
- Printed copy of the complete list of character traits found at: <http://character-in-action.com/character-traits-make-a-whopping-difference/>

What you will do:

1. Before lesson time, put your unmarked boxes, unstacked, where you can reach them while talking. Scatter them around – but do not stack any of them.
2. Keep the **HONESTY** box separate from the others, with the word hidden.
3. Introduce character as an exciting building project you will undertake together.
Explain that people build character into their lives. It isn't there at birth. It doesn't grow there naturally. It must be built.
You and your listeners will work together to build character into your lives.
4. **As you talk**, stack 10 or more unmarked boxes to form a wall.
Do not include the **HONESTY** box in your wall, but make your wall of boxes as large and as high as you wish.



5. **Say:** “Each one of us will build our own wall.
We won't build a wall of boxes.
It won't be a wall of bricks or concrete.
We won't be able to touch the walls with our hands.
Our walls will contain blocks of character.”
6. **Say:** “A brick wall is made of what? Right! Bricks!
A concrete wall is made of what? Yes! Concrete!
Our **CHARACTER** walls will be made of **CHARACTER TRAITS**.”

7. Hold up the box on which you wrote **HONESTY**.



8. **Say:** "Honesty is one character trait. Can you name others?"
9. Stack the **HONESTY** box on top of your wall as you call on people for ideas.
Allow one minute for participation.
Add a few words from your printed list of character traits.
10. **Say:** "We've all put some blocks in our **CHARACTER** walls already. How many of you think you already have a tall, strong **CHARACTER** wall?"
11. **Say:** "We're going to play a game to see how strong your **CHARACTER** wall already is."

Character game:

Full instructions for the "Character Eating Challenge" game may be quickly downloaded and printed from the PDF provided at: <http://character-in-action.com/downloads/character-activities/charactereatingchallenge.pdf>



✝ FOR CHRISTIAN TEACHERS and WORKERS

The Wise and Foolish Builders

Before a class for younger ages, print copies of the coloring picture on page 5.

After your game:

1. **Say:** "It's a challenge to build character. If we don't build on the right foundation, our walls will not stand when difficult things happen to us."
2. Open your Bible to Matthew 7:24-27 or Luke 6:47-49.
3. Read the story, or tell it in your own words.
4. **Say:** "Building character into our lives is like building the walls of a house. As we build character, we need to build it on a foundation. That foundation has to be rock, not sand. If we build on sand, our character walls will not stand when trouble comes. If we build on rock, they will"
5. Explain that the Bible says those who listen to Jesus, and do what He says to do, are building on rock. When we do that, our character walls will be strong.
6. Close with prayer that each one will build on rock.
7. (For younger ages - Distribute coloring pictures for take-home reminders.)

Matthew 7:24-27 (New King James Version)

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Luke 6:47-49 (New King James Version)

47 "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

