

# A LIVING FAITH CLASSROOM LESSON about being **WISE or FOOLISH**

**VIRTUE:** Wisdom

**SCRIPTURE:** *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. Matthew 7:24*

*And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. Matthew 7:26*



## **LESSON & ACTIVITY MATERIALS:**

- A stack of books
- Copy of “The 3 Little Pigs” book OR a picture

**SAY:** School will be out in just a few days and most of you probably don't plan to spend a lot of time reading and studying during your summer vacation. I remember how it was when I was in school. On the last day of school you would often hear children saying, "No more school, no more books, no more teacher's dirty looks!" Well, even during the summer it is important to continue to learn, isn't it?

The Bible teaches us that we should be filled with knowledge and wisdom. Do you know the difference between **knowledge** and **wisdom**? I brought a big stack of books from the library this morning. Let's imagine that you could read all of these books this summer and remember everything you read. You would really have a lot of knowledge, but you wouldn't necessarily be wise. **Knowledge** means *we have it up here in our head* -- **Wisdom** means *we know what to do with it!* Some people have a lot of knowledge, but not much wisdom.

**SAY:** Do you remember the story of “The 3 Little Pigs?” (Pause) The **Three Little Pigs** is a fable about 3 pigs who build 3 houses of different materials. A Big Bad Wolf blows down the first two pigs' houses, which were made of straw and sticks, but the wolf is unable to destroy the third pig's house, made of bricks. You might say all 3 pigs had the **knowledge** to build a house, but only 1 pig had the **wisdom** to make a home strong enough to stay standing.

**SAY:** Some people know a lot about Jesus and what he taught, and they put his teachings into practice in their daily life. Jesus said that those people are very **wise**. He said they are like a wise man who builds his house on the rock, (or the wise pig that built his house using bricks!). When the storms come, their homes stand firm. Then, there are some people who know a lot about Jesus and his teachings, but they do *not* put them into practice in their life. Jesus said they are very foolish. He said they are like a foolish man who builds his house upon the sand, (or the foolish pigs that built their houses using straw and sticks!). When the storms come, their houses go "splat."

There are 7 books in the Old Testament of the Bible that are called the Books of Wisdom, namely the books of: **Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon, Wisdom of Solomon and Sirach**. These books all teach us the knowledge we need to live a life according to Jesus' teachings, but most importantly, the wisdom to understand how to put them into practice in our daily lives!

Jesus, we want to know what you taught, but more importantly, we want to have the wisdom to take what you taught and put it into practice. Amen.