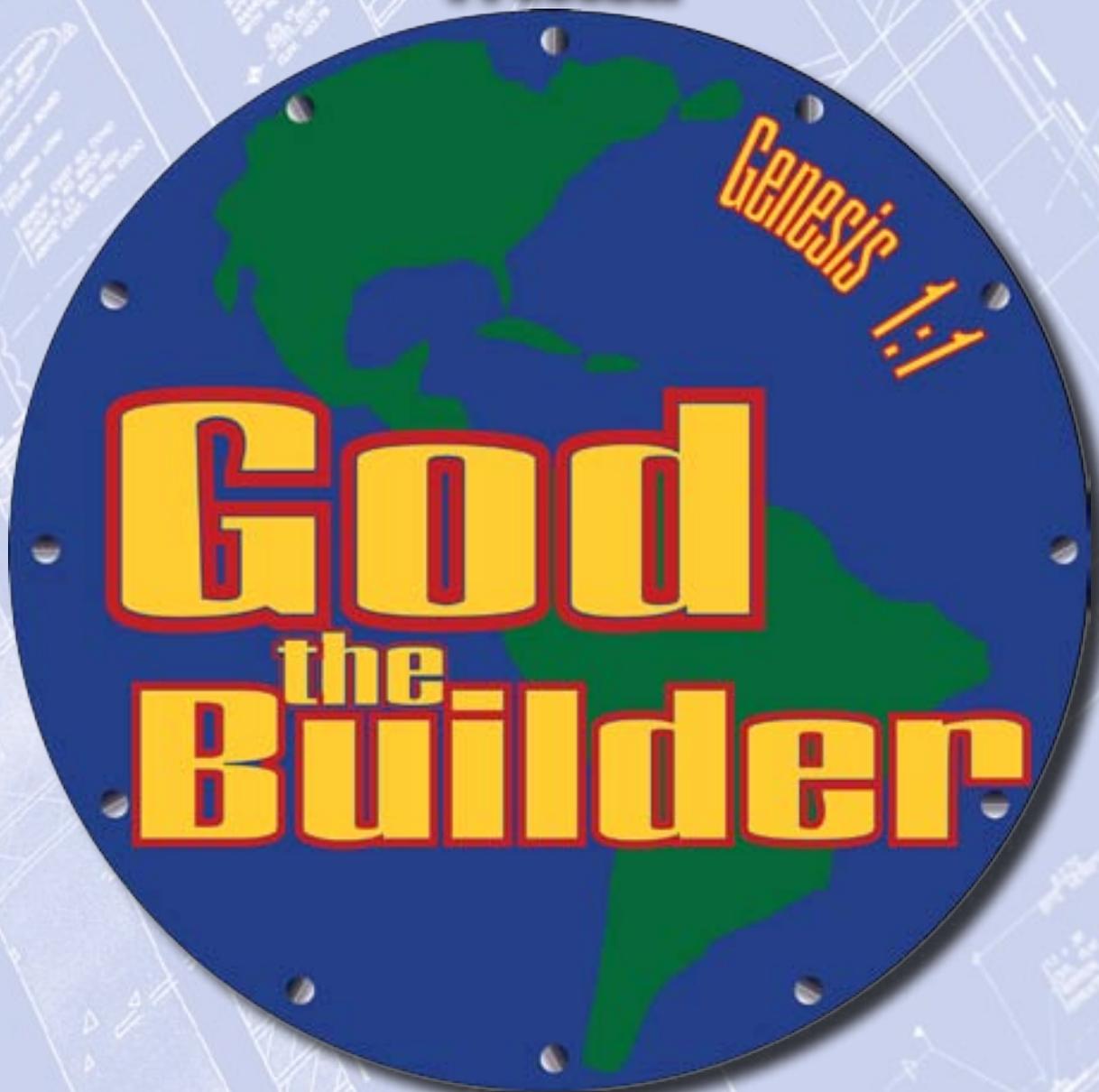


**Whitewater Valley Presbytery  
Presbiterio Norte de Quintana Roo  
Present:**



**Vacation Bible School  
Class: Grades 1-3**

For more information, see [http://www.whitewatervalley.org/hm\\_vbs2011.htm](http://www.whitewatervalley.org/hm_vbs2011.htm)

# God the Builder

## God the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth

### Day One

### 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

<b>THEME:</b>	God creates everything, and continues to create
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Genesis 1:1-2:4
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

#### Objective

- That the student may recognize that God is the creator of heaven, earth and all that is in it.

#### Preparation

- Pray that God may give you the wisdom to use the proper words so that the student can understand the word of God.
- Use the appropriate time to be able to read and become familiar with the Bible story and its content.
- Prepare and organize the materials needed for your class.
- Memorize the memory verse in order to set the example to your students.
- Above all, act with love and dedication by showing an attitude of service, understanding, and interest towards the students.

#### Material

- Read Genesis 1:1-2:4 and Psalm 8
- Attendance list
- Lesson theme pins to mark attendance
- Bulletin / Cork / flannel board
- Creation illustrations
- Blank sheets of paper
- Newsprint
- Crayons and/or markers
- Pictures of pristine landscapes and of polluted areas

#### Introduction

*Greet students as they arrive. Let them know you are glad to see them. Hand out name tags*

*Encourage them to continue coming to VBS. Let them know they can invite friends.*

*Introduce the overall theme of VBS, today's theme and the passage for the day.*

#### Studying the Bible passage

*Ask students to close their eyes and to describe what they see. Most will say they see nothing, that everything is dark. Explain that this is how it was at the beginning of time; nothing existed, only God. God has no beginning or end.*

God designed everything around us, and created them with God's immense power.

God is the great builder because he created everything that we can see. He did this in several days. The first day God created time; He created day and night. The second day he created the sky (show the blue background of the board).

On the third day God created the sea, the land and all of the trees (*As you mention each one, place the illustration on the board. If you have a picture, point to each one as you mention them*).

On the fourth day God created the sun, the moon and all the stars in the sky (*Place illustrations on board as you mention them*).

On the fifth day God created all the animals that live in the sea and all the birds in the sky (*If possible, you may want to ask a student to help you place the animal illustrations on the board*).

On the sixth day, God created all the animals of the land. He created those that we have as domestic animals today and wild animals. Do you know the difference between a domestic and wild animal? (*Allow students to answer and give an example of each.*) On this day, God also created the first human beings, which were Adam and Eve.

When God completed his work, God took a look at what he had done and said that it was very good. Then, on the seventh day God rested because he had finished creating everything that we can now see and enjoy.

God gave creation to human beings not only for us to live in, enjoy and be nurtured by it, but also that we may preserve and take care of it.

How do you feel when you think about us being a small part of all that God has created? (*Let students answer*). I feel like God makes human being so special, because we are able to take care of creation. *Ask the students to take turns reading Psalm 8.*

### **Reflecting on the Bible Passage**

When God created the heavens, the earth, and everything that is in them, none of it was polluted. Do you think that is still the case? I don't think so (*Show pictures of polluted rivers and other bodies of water*). How do you see God's creation now? *Allow students to express what they see and what they may know about the topic.*

Humans have not always taken care of God's creation in a responsible way. We need to learn how to take care of and preserve the environment because it is the house that God has built for us. We should be grateful to God and praise him for his marvelous creation. We should also be responsible by taking care of it, and teaching others to do so by setting an example.

I want us to always remember this: No one told God to make this magnificent creation. God made up God's own mind to construct the entire universe and put human beings to live, be nourished by and take care of the earth.

Do you think that we are fulfilling our job of taking care of God's creation?

How do you think we can take better care of the earth? *Pay close attention to the student responses.* When we act responsibly in creation we are showing that we are grateful to God and that we are fulfilling our role as stewards of creation.

### **Applying the Bible Passage to Our Live**

Do you think that we can help take care of God's creation even though we may be young? Encourage students to express their ideas.

*Write them up on a chalk board or piece of newsprint so that the student may feel her/his opinion matters.*

*If your students do not share, you can suggest ideas such as:*

- *Discard trash in appropriate places.*
- *Get into the habit of recycling*
- *Make compost from food that will be discarded.*
- *Avoid contaminating bodies of water (e.g. rivers, lakes, creeks, etc.)*
- *Plant new trees.*
- *Do not burn trash.*
- *Use biodegradable bags.*
- *Recycle and/or reuse shopping bags when visiting the supermarket.*

Every time we throw trash away in the appropriate places and when we recycle what we can, we are contributing to taking care of our environment. *Depending on their age, students may not know what recycling means. Giving them examples of recycling (e.g. newspaper, soda cans, etc.) would be helpful.*

We act responsibly when we go to the beach or to the park, and pick up and throw away our own trash. This way, we keep our parks, rivers, and lakes from getting polluted. When we protect the animals and trees that are on planet earth we help maintain the balance of life. This is really important now, especially with things such as global warming affecting us. We should also avoid allowing trees to be cut in a way that is out of control.

God likes when humans act responsibly and take care of the planet. However, this is not always the case today. That is why we should set the example to take care of our surroundings. Once again, point to the pictures that you may have of polluted waters or land to emphasize the impact our negligence can cause on the earth. *Encourage student to share their thoughts and opinions. Also show pictures of beautiful landscapes or seascapes for contrast.*

**Optional Activity:** *Ask students to draw a picture of God creating one of the works of creation mentioned in today's Bible story.*

## **Conclusion**

Why do humans have to take care of God's creation? Because God is the great builder. God created a wonderful world for us to live in, and gave us the task to take care of everything that is in it.

*Emphasize the importance of caring for: bodies of water, animals, and everything that is on planet earth. Explain that if we do not take care of things ourselves, we may suffer the consequences (e.g. polluted water).*

*Ask the students if any of them can live without water or food. Then ask them to commit themselves to care for the environment so that the generations that come may have a better quality of life. Finish the class by repeating the theme for the day, as well as the memory verse.*

*Close in prayer.*

# God the Builder Dios el Constructor

## The Potter Shapes the Clay Day Two 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

<b>THEME:</b>	God shapes our lives according to God's purpose.
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Jeremiah 18:1-6
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me." Psalm 138:8

**Objective** To learn that God shapes our lives according to God's purpose.

**Preparation**

- Read Jeremiah 18:1-6.
- Practice telling this passage in your own words

**Material**

- Small soft ball
- Pictures of people working at potter's wheels, DVD, or live demonstration
- Jar or dish made from clay
- Clay or Play Dough
- Drawing paper
- Crayons

### Introduction

*Greet everyone. Explain that you have a small ball in your hands so you can talk and everyone else can listen. Whoever has the ball in his or her hands is the one who speaks and the others are quiet and listen. Pass the ball around and ask the children to say their names and their favorite color. Ask each one to explain why he or she chose that color and ask them to name three things of that color. Using the ball helps children take turns.*

*Pass out paper and crayons. Ask the children to draw pictures of themselves. Some of the older children should have detailed pictures that you can use to talk about God's creation of us. Talk about how we are created by God the same and different. You can talk about our appearance - how we can recognize different people because their faces look different - and also how we are the same and different in our abilities and interests.*

*Ask them to make a list of the ways we are the same and the ways we are different. Ask them why God makes us different. Why aren't we all the same? Talk about God creating us according to God's plan.*

### Studying the Bible passage

The potter was an important person as every household needed several containers for liquids and plates for serving. Even after a finished pot was glazed and baked in the oven, it was fragile. Pots broke and needed to be replaced. This kept the potter busy. Although few people worked as a potter, everyone knew that he took a lump of clay and shaped it into a finished product. All older children and adults could understand this Bible passage's reference to the potter and his work.

The Lord told Jeremiah to "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." Jeremiah went to the potter's house and watched him work. He saw that when a pot did not turn out well, the potter could make the clay into a lump and start over. The potter could keep working with that clay until he was satisfied that what he created was good.

*It will be helpful to have photos or a DVD of potters at work.*

*Read the Bible passage together. Since this is a short passage, you can ask for volunteers to read it several times.*

### **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

God shapes us - not once but continually. Talk about how we are born as little babies, how we grow up into big people, and how even then we still change as long as we live.

God has a plan for each of us. It is a plan that we continue to discover. *At this age they understand that they have different interests - some in sports, some in art, and some in building things. Talk about the fact that we continue to grow and change our whole lives and our interests and sense of what God calls us to do - that changes too. You can talk about your own sense of God's plan for you and ask them if they have ideas of what God's plan is for them.*

### **Applying the Bible passage to our life**

#### Application (choose one or both)

- 1. Look at the dish or jar made of clay. Pass it around so everyone can feel how it is made. Using the clay or play dough, make simple pots by rolling the material into a ball, sticking your thumbs in, and pulling the material out to form a pot shape. Encourage the children to make a pot, roll the material into a ball again, and make another pot. Talk about the potter in the Bible story working on the pot until it is good. Ask them how they know when their creation is "good." The potter has a plan for his finished product. Ask the children if they know how to tell whether something they want in their lives is according to God's plan for them. What are the criteria we should use?*
- 2. The Message Bible begins the Jeremiah passage, "God told Jeremiah, 'Up on your feet! Go to the potter's house.'" God does not want us to be slow in doing God's work. When we know what God's plan is for us, we should get busy right away.*

*The teacher says to one child, "Up on your feet, and tell me what God's plan is for you!" That child may tell you that he or she wants to be a teacher. Then ask the class to tell about that work, for example, a teacher has to go to college first, then get a job at a school, prepare lessons, teach them, go outside for recess with the class, etc. As each child*

*answers, he or she has to leap to their feet and speak boldly. God's plans are important and are to be spoken with good strong voices.*

*When the class has no more ideas for the first child, the teacher picks another one, saying, "Up on your feet, and tell me what God's plan is for you!"*

*Memory verse: "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me." Psalm 138:8 (NRSV)*

### **Conclusion**

God creates us - not just at our birth, but continually throughout our lives.

*Close with prayer.*

# God the Builder

## The Spirit of God Breathed Life into the Dry Bones of the People of Israel

Day Three

1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

<b>THEME:</b>	God creates hope and new life in the midst of desperation and death.
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Ezekiel 37:1-14
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

### Objective

- That the student recognize that God gives life to what is dead

### Preparation

- Pray that God may give you the wisdom to use the proper words so that the student can understand the word of God.
- Use the appropriate time to be able to read and become familiar with the Bible story and its content.
- Prepare and organize the materials needed for your class.
- Memorize the memory verse in order to set the example to your students.
- Above all, act with love and dedication by showing an attitude of service, understanding, and interest towards the students.

### Material

- Attendance list
- Lesson theme pins to mark attendance
- Bulletin or Cork or flannel board
- Pictures or illustrations of Ezekiel or costumes, whichever is your preference for the class
- Pictures or illustrations of human skeleton, muscular system and of the human body.
- A tunic made out of fabric or crepe paper.
- Blank sheets of paper
- Crayons and/or markers

### Introduction

*Greet students as they arrive. Let them know you are glad to see them.*

*Encourage them to continue coming to VBS and that their attendance is very important. Let them know they can invite friends.*

*Introduce the overall theme of VBS, today's theme and the passage for the day.*

## **Studying the Biblical passage**

*It is recommended that the students sit in a semi-circle.*

The Bible tells us that many years ago a prophet called Ezekiel had a very strange experience. God gives him vision that is a bit unusual. You all know that our bodies are made up of many different parts. *(Show them the picture of the human skeleton)* Some of the parts of the body are called bones. Do you know what they do? They give structure and support to our body. Another part of our body is our muscular system. *(Show them a picture)* Our muscles help our body move.

These are some of the parts of the human body. When a part of the body is not working right it can cause problems. Just imagine if you broke a bone or strained a muscle. It would hurt a lot and you would not be able to do things as easily as you are used to.

In this picture we can see the circulatory system, which provides nutrition to all the parts of our body and allows them to have the energy to work normally.

*If you would like, you can ask a student to be the prophet and wear the tunic. You can guide the student to act out the parts as you narrate the story. You can also use the rest of the class to represent the multitude that God lifted up from the dry bones.*

One day God took the prophet Ezekiel to a valley. A valley is an open and very wide place. Let us make pretend that this is that valley. *You can spread the bone pictures on the floor or use/create toy bones.* The valley was full of dry bones. The prophet was walking through this valley noticing that it was full of dry bones. God asked him, "Son of Man, can these bones live?" The prophet responded "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know." God ordered him: "Speak to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! God says that he will give you life, will cover you with flesh and skin and you will live again. Then you will know that God is Lord.'" When the prophet began to say these words, the bones obeyed and began coming together *(With someone's help, pick up the "bones" on the floor and show the pictures of the entire skeleton, muscular system, and human body)* until they formed skeletons just like this one and then muscles were formed like we see in this picture. This continued until the human body was formed like this one. But it wasn't just one body that was formed, but enough to have an army. God explained this vision to the prophet. God told him that the bones represented the people of Israel, who felt like they had no hope, and were very sad. However, God was determined to give them a new life and new hope. You may feel sad and without hope just like the people of Israel. God wants to give you a new hope so that you may no longer be sad.

## **Reflecting on the Biblical Passage**

It must have been weird to be in a place like the one Ezekiel was in, and see so many dry bones, right?

Perhaps it may be scary for some of us to have an experience like this and be in a place full of bones. It truly must have been a gloomy experience.

However, Ezekiel was very obedient to God. The Bible does not say that the prophet was afraid or that he no longer wanted to see the vision. He spoke to the bones just as God ordered him to, and he was able to see how the bones began coming together, coming to life, and forming many human beings. God gave a message to his people through that vision. It was a message of life and hope, because the people felt lost and without hope. God gave them a reason to feel animated to continue marching forward. God tells Israel that he is willing to give them a new life.

If you have felt sad because of something that has happened to you, only in God can you find a new happiness. He is willing to give to you a new life.

God is not only the builder, but he also rebuilds our feelings and our very life.

### **Applying the Bible Passage to Our Lives**

God is very interested in knowing how his people feel, what they think and what they say. That is why he had to show the prophet a vision of dry bones. Although the message may be a bit strange for us, it brought a message of hope, new life and new joys to the people.

The people should only trust in God, the builder of life.

If you have felt very sad just like the people of Israel, you should put your trust in God and he will give you joy. It does not matter what may have caused you to feel sad, God is capable of rebuilding those things that may be dry or have no life.

The most beautiful thing about this message is that God is willing to give new life, regardless of whether we ask for it or not. He was to do a marvelous reconstruction in our life to show us that he is God.

***Optional Activity:** Students can draw a picture of a sad child who is then made happy by God; or they can draw a picture of a moment in which God helped or supported them in their life.*

### **Conclusion**

If you have experienced sad moments remember that the God the builder of the heavens and the earth exists.

Who is capable of giving life? Only God. Let us put all of our trust in him. When you feel sad, afraid, or when you feel there is no hope, know that only God can help you. God can give you new hope and new joy.

God wants you to trust in him always. Just like he cares for the people of Israel, he also cares for you. Whatever you think, feel, and say is very important to God.

Do you want to be happy? God wants to help you. Only God is capable of bringing life where there was none before.

*Finish with prayer.*

# God the Builder Dios el Constructor

## The wise build on the Rock Day Four 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

<b>THEME:</b>	God creates faithful followers.
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Matthew 7:24-29
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone." Psalm 118:22

<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The students will learn that God creates faithful followers, by building on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ.</li><li>• The children will learn what it means to "hear" and "listen".</li><li>• The children will explore what it means to be "wise" and to act on what they have heard.</li><li>• The children will learn how our faith must be built on Jesus Christ, the sure foundation and Rock of our faith, and explore what some of the "storms" in life might be that challenge our faith.</li></ul>
<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read prayerfully the passages from Matthew 7:24-29 and also the memory verse from Psalm 118:22.</li><li>• With an open heart and mind, try to visualize the passage imagery and how this can be used in the lesson.</li></ul>
<b>Material</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 empty 2 liter pop bottles (you will fill with water for demo)</li><li>• 1 tornado tube to connect the bottles. See <a href="http://www.buy.com/prod/tornado-tubes/q/sellerid/25400168/loc/20269/215109012.html">http://www.buy.com/prod/tornado-tubes/q/sellerid/25400168/loc/20269/215109012.html</a></li><li>• Small rocks and permanent markers</li><li>• Crayons and enlarged cornerstone pictures</li><li>• Blank paper</li></ul>

### Background Information

*(From Holman's Illustrated Bible Dictionary) Use of rocky sites as places of refuge (in the Bible) led to the image of God as a rock, that is, a source of protection.*

*Cornerstone- is a stone laid at the corner to bind two walls together and to strengthen them.*

*According to the dictionary, "Wisdom", is the knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action. In other words it is not just hearing and knowing what is right and true, but also acting on it.*



## **Introduction**

*Greet the children by name if possible, making eye contact. Introduce yourself and open with prayer:*

Dear Lord,

We thank you for the time we have together to praise you and to learn of the ways you help us to be faithful followers of Jesus. Help us to be wise and build our lives on you, our Rock.

*Open with some wondering questions:*

How do we hear? (we use our ears)

How do we listen? (we pay attention to what we hear)

Can we do a good job of hearing and listening if we are talking at the same time?

*Demonstration of hearing vs. listening:*

*You will need 2 children for this.*

*(Instruct the children aside from the group)*

*Have 1 child count from 1 to 10 and look all around the room, while the second child is telling the first child how to put on shoes and socks.*

*Debrief:*

Do you think the first child (name) heard the second child talking? (yes) Do you think (name) was able to simply hear noise or to truly listen? (noise)

*To truly listen means that we look at someone who is talking, we do not talk at the same time and we try to stay open in our hearts and minds to what is being said. Jesus wants us to listen to what he has to say about what it means to be wise.*

## **Studying the Bible passage**

*Read with the children Matthew 7:24-29 and also Psalm 118:22.*

## **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

What is happening in this story?

Have you ever built a sand castle? What happens when water comes over it?

Have you ever stood on a beach in bare feet and let the water come over your feet-what happens (you sink)? If you build something on a hard surface like a rock, would it be as likely to sink or wash away?

What is it like to be in a storm? (can be scary, loud...) What happens if we don't pay attention to storms that are coming? (If we are not prepared, things can be damaged, we get wet!)

*Demonstrate the tornado tube by getting the water to swirl until there is a vortex formed. Ask the children to think about what might be "storms" in their lives. (times they don't get along with their siblings or friends, if they haven't done the right thing, if they have told a lie...)*

### **Applying the Bible passage to our life**

Listening to Jesus is a wise thing to do. Jesus speaks to us in the Bible many times and speaks to us through the Bible today. He is saying to us that if you are wise (able to hear what is right and true and act on it), you will build your faith on him, not on something that is only here for a short while and then washes away.

*If we build our faith on Jesus, as our Rock-what would that look like? If we have a "storm" in our life, if things are tough, how can we rely on Jesus and put our trust in him?*

*Answers may be:*

*Talk and pray to Jesus every day; trust that Jesus is with us even though we cannot see him; ask God for help when things get tough and we have problems; try to truly listen for what God is telling us; live the way Jesus shows us)*

### **Activity Options:**

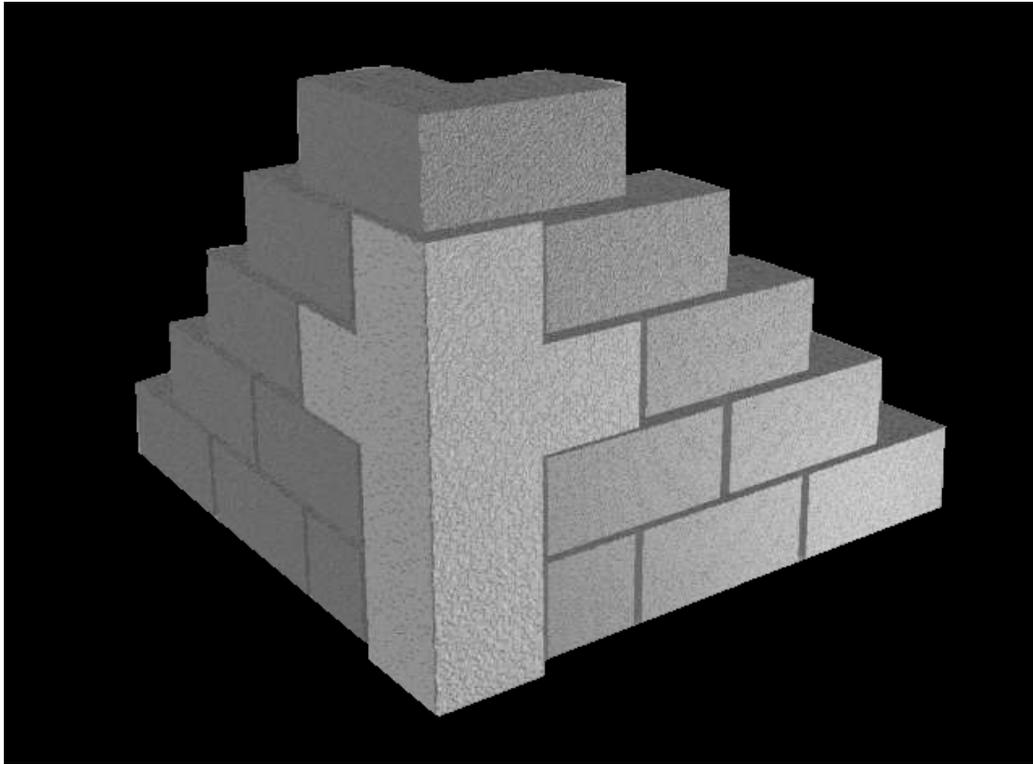
1. *Jesus is the rock or cornerstone we build our faith on, not on things that do not last. We can use a rock to remind us of this. Using a permanent marker, write "Jesus" on the rock or simply put the fish symbol on the rock to represent Jesus.*



2. *Enlarge the cornerstone pictures above to be a coloring page and have the children color these.*
3. *Have students draw a picture of a house built on a rock.*

### **Conclusion**

*Close with prayer. Thank you God for our Rock, Jesus Christ. Help us to truly listen, trust and follow you even during life's storms. Amen.*



# Dios el Constructor God the Builder

## We are the Body of Christ Day Five 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

<b>THEME:</b>	God builds the Body of Christ, the Church
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	I Corinthians 12: 12-27
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5

<b>Objective</b>	That the students may:
<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn the importance of fellowship, unity and harmony with their classmates.</li><li>• Identify attitudes that cause division among people.</li><li>• Understand that there can be unity within diversity.</li><li>• Pray that God may give you the wisdom to use the proper words so that the students can understand the word of God.</li><li>• Use the appropriate time to be able to read and become familiar with the Bible story and its content.</li><li>• Prepare and organize the materials needed for your class.</li><li>• Memorize the memory verse in order to set the example to your students.</li><li>• Above all, act with love and dedication by showing an attitude of service, understanding, and interest towards the students.</li></ul>
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attendance List</li><li>• Class theme pins to mark attendance</li><li>• Bulletin or Cork Board</li><li>• Illustration or picture of the human body</li><li>• Gloves with expressions: Sad, happy, and angry.</li><li>• A tunic made of fabric or crepe paper.</li><li>• Blank sheets of paper</li><li>• Crayons and/or markers</li></ul>

### Introduction

*Greet students as they arrive. Let them know you are glad to see them.*

*Introduce the overall theme of VBS, today's theme and the passage for the day.*

### Studying the Biblical Passage

*You may want to make a few gloves and marking different expressions of the eyes and mouth by using Velcro. This will facilitate changing expressions as the story may dictate.*

Children, pay close attention. Today I am going to tell you what happened to some hands. They were very tired of working and were very uncomfortable. They were upset with the body. They complained of being the ones that were always working, and were tired of cleaning, feeding and protecting the body. They were so tired they decided to go on a vacation. They were no longer going to do anything for the body. They were determined to do this. Time went by and because the body was no longer being fed it began getting weak. It was getting so weak that the hands began to feel the consequences of the body not being fed. The hands began losing their strength. The body as a whole began getting sick. The hands understood that although they worked very hard, they were really important for the body. Their role of feeding, cleaning and protecting the body was vital. Although their job was very hard work, they realized that they could not go on vacation because if they did, the entire body would be affected. It could get sick, or even die.

The hands then gathered up the little strength they had left and began to feed the body. Little by little the body began to recuperate and all of its parts began feeling better. The hands thought they were going to give a lesson to the body, but it was they who learned a great lesson. From that moment on, they decided to always do what they are supposed to do even if they felt tired. They also learned that they are not separate from the body, but are a unit.

Our Bible passage describes all believers as part of the body of Christ. All are important, even if they may have a different responsibility. God has given all of us different gifts and abilities. God designed each differently so that we can be a complement to the perfect unity of God's body.

God designed and created everything around us with his great power. God used this power to create human beings, and also, his church.

Even though God has created us differently, he wants us to work in perfect unity and harmony so that the church can be healthy and full of love.

All believers should dedicate themselves, in love, to the body of Christ. Above all, they should seek to work as a team. There should be no place for selfishness, arrogance or jealousy in church. We should always have an positive attitude that promotes good relationships with others in love, humility, and gentleness. These should all be characteristics of being children of God.

### **Reflecting on the Biblical Passage**

Do you know what it means to work as a team? Allow students to respond and write down their responses.

I would like for you all to remember the story of the hands. At first they acted in a selfish way. Then they realized the consequences of not working for the body. After thinking about it, they started working again, this time with more energy and dedication because they realized how important their job was.

Division and selfishness among the members of the body does not exist. They all work together for the well-being of the entire body.

This lesson teaches us that we should not be selfish. We should pay attention to the needs of others as well. That way we can have healthy and happy lives.

Do you believe we are doing a good job of taking care of the unity of the church?

### **Applying the Bible Passage to Our Lives**

It is important for us to know that in the church we are all different. We have different roles and jobs. However, we should always work towards the unity and well-being of all people.

*Ask the students to mention certain attitudes that cause division or arguments among people in general or in families.*

*If the students do not respond, encourage them, and give some examples.*

- *Lies*
- *Selfishness*
- *Jealousy*
- *Arguments*

*Ask them to mention attitudes that promote unity. For example:*

- *Speak with truth*
- *Generosity*
- *Show interest and love for others*
- *Practice patience*

Do you think we can work for unity in the church even if we are young?

We shouldn't only work for unity at church, but also in our homes and schools. Wherever we may be, we should always promote unity. We should always seek to serve others and work as a team.

*Optional Activity: Students can make a drawing of a family working on a project together.*

### **Conclusion**

God the great builder created a beautiful world for us to live in. He gave us the responsibility of taking care of creation and all that is in it. God also gave us the responsibility of keeping the unity of the church because we are all its members.

*Encourage students to have good relationships with their classmates in school and to strengthen their relationships with their families. Remind them of the importance of teamwork.*

*Help them understand that if we do not take care of our interpersonal relationships (with family, classmates, etc.) that we will suffer the consequences. If we do not cultivate friendships and respect, we will become lonely and without friends.*

*Ask the students if any of them could live without speaking with someone, or without having any friends. Allow them to express how they would feel if they were always alone. When we are with someone our work becomes easier to do. God created human beings to live in community, which is why we should learn the basic rules in order to maintain healthy relationships with people.*

*Express to the students your appreciation for coming this week. Invite and encourage them to continue participating in the ministries of the church.*

*Finish with prayer.*