

Here We Come!

Hide interesting rocks in a tub of sand for the children to find. Then add these rocks to an assortment already on the worship table.

Scripture Words and Worship

Sometimes it is difficult finding words to describe God and Jesus, so we use examples for comparison. Let the children tell you how the sand and the rocks are different. What would you do with a big rock? Why do we think of rocks as strong? Use pictures for “Jesus” and “rock” in the scripture. The face of a child or a small mirror could replace “my” in the verse. If children have heard the song “Jesus Is the Rock” *NS 24*, this would be a good time to use it.

Story Talking

It is important to have someone in your life you can count on and trust. Jesus is like that. We can trust the things he says. We can count on his promises. Let the children tell you things Jesus said we should do.

Experiment with building blocks and various foundations. Children can work together to build a tower or wall with blocks. Use surfaces such as the floor, a board, a pillow, some child’s back, bricks, or sand.

Sense-ations

- Build a wall of clay around the houses and let the children press small rocks into the foundation.
- Take turns hiding rocks in sand for someone else to find.
- Fill a bottle with rocks until the children say it’s full. Ask if anything else will fit in the bottle. Add sand to fill the leftover spaces. Now is the bottle full? Will anything else fit inside? Pour in water to the top. Is it full now? Sometimes when we think we have given all we have to give, there may still be room for a little more.

Up and at ‘Em

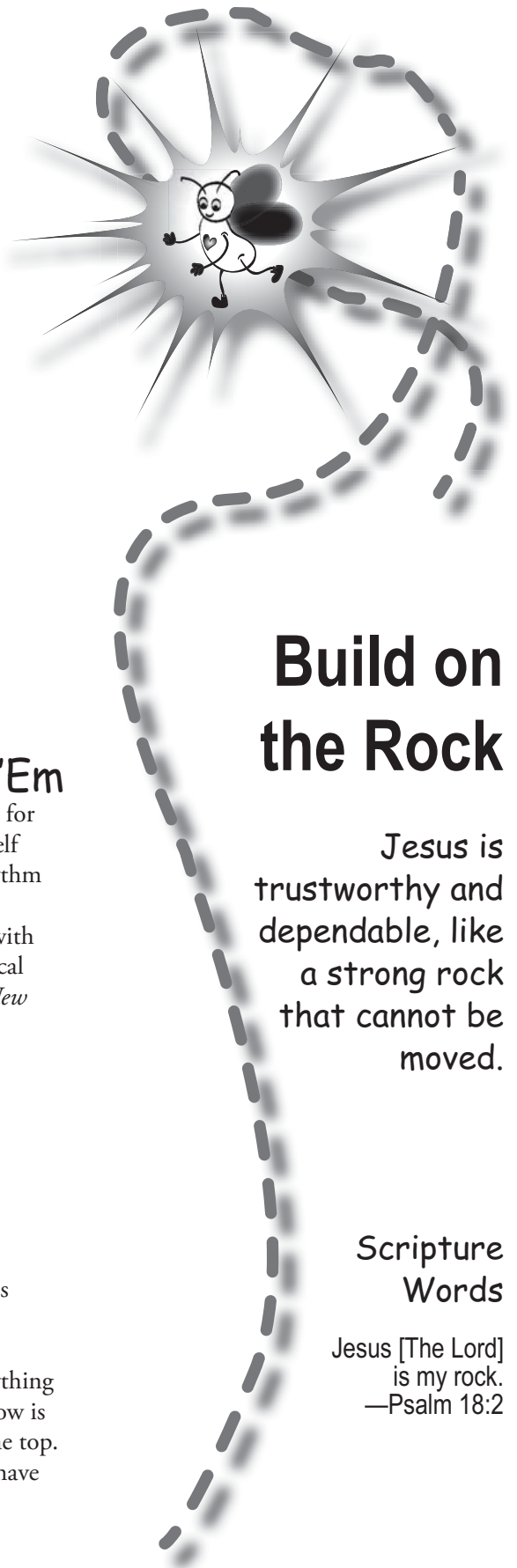
The music suggested for this session lends itself to marching and rhythm instruments. Herald House carries CDs with instrumental and vocal music from *Sing a New Song*.

Build on the Rock

Jesus is trustworthy and dependable, like a strong rock that cannot be moved.

Scripture Words

Jesus [The Lord] is my rock.
—Psalm 18:2



Live and Learn

Jesus used examples to help people understand what he was trying to say. The theological connection will not be as important to the children as seeing the story visually represented. Practice with the materials to determine how much sand and water will be needed.

Create two waterproof houses, using ½ pint milk cartons covered with contact paper or cloth. Add rocks to one. Prepare two cake pans or plastic tubs for the demonstration. In one, position a flat rock in the middle so that the house with the rocks inside can sit on it. In the other, place the house on a mound of sand. Provide water and plastic cups for the children.

Share the following story. At the appropriate time (when the rains come) the children can pour water in the tub to see what happens to the houses.

- Jesus was talking to people. He wanted them to understand how important it was to listen and then do what he told them. Jesus told a story.
- He said, “I will show you what it is like when someone comes to me, hears my words, and does something about it.
- That person is like someone building a house.
- To be sure it would stand for a long time, the builders dug deep into the ground until they came to flat rocks.
- Then they built the foundation on that rock.
- When the house was finished, a big rain came.
- The river nearby filled up with water, burst out of its banks, and crashed against the house.
- But the house did not fall down.
- It had been well built.
- The rains and the flood waters couldn’t shake it.
- Another person built a house too, but did not dig deep to find a rock.
- This house was built on the sandy ground with nothing else under it.
- When the rains came and the river filled up and flowed out of its banks, it crashed into the house.
- The house built on the sand with no strong foundation tipped over and washed away.”
- Jesus said, “Be like the house on the firm foundation. Listen to what I tell you, then go and do those things. Be kind. Share. Love each other.”

Moving Music

- “Jesus Is the Rock” NS 24
- “Firm Foundation” NS 10



Use the tune for “Mulberry Bush” to fit the following words from Matthew.

House on the Rock, House on the Sand

Tune: Mulberry Bush

Words adapted from Matthew 7:24–27 by Marge Nelson

A wise man built his house on a rock. (pretend to hammer)

House on a rock,

House on a rock.

A wise man built his house on a rock,

To stand up in any storm.

The rains came down and the winds blew strong.

(fingers sprinkle, blow for wind)

Winds blew strong,

Winds blew strong.

The rains came down and the winds blew strong,

But the house stood still in the storm.

A foolish man built his house on the sand. (pretend to hammer)

House on the sand,

House on the sand.

A foolish man built his house on the sand,

To stand up in any storm.

The rains came down and the winds blew strong.

(fingers sprinkle, blow for wind)

Winds blew strong,

Winds blew strong.

The rains came down and the winds blew strong,

But the house on the sand went splat! (hands indicate wipe out)

There We Go

Encourage the children to share what they learned today with family and friends. The song could be presented in the worship service with the adults joining in the actions.