



The Two Builders

You will need some Lego/Mega blocks and photos of interesting buildings.

Opening questions

Ask two of the children to quietly build something using Mega blocks – limit the time to around 2 minutes while you ask the next questions.

- Have you ever built anything?
- What did you build?
- What materials did you use to build with?
- What is your favourite building? (You might show slides of some beautiful buildings). Maybe it is your home?

Some classes may have something they have built to share.

Bible Story

Jesus told a story about two builders – one was wise, and one was foolish or silly. Jesus' story can be found in Matthew 7.24-27 and Luke 6.46-49. (There are several story versions/videos of this parable available, or you might like to use the version attached.)

The wise builder made sure he spent time and effort building his house so that it was strong and safe.

The foolish builder rushed and did not use the best materials; his house was weak and unsafe when a stormy day came along.

The story has a meaning. It is designed to teach people to build themselves a good life so when difficult days come, they can cope.

John Laing – a good builder

John Laing became a builder at 14 years old. He was a Christian and had read the story of the two builders in the Bible.

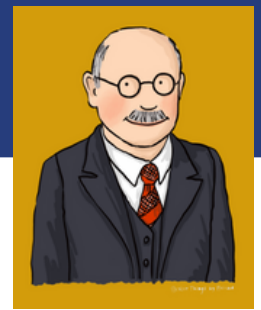
John had to get up very early and work hard in all sorts of weather – snow, rain, hot sunshine – and in all sorts of conditions – mud, cold, boiling heat. He loved his job and always worked hard to make sure that whatever he built was good quality. He was a wise builder.

Eventually he became the boss of his father's building company. He was involved in all sorts of building projects – churches, Coventry cathedral, power stations, the M1 motorway, aeroplane runways, houses and more. Many people said very good things about his company and their excellent work.

One of his building projects did not go very well because the land he was building on was flooded. John was worried and prayed to God to help him.

As a boss he treated all his workers well and was kind and considerate towards them. For example, he gave them paid holidays before it was the law to do so. He knew their names and about their families. Many of his workers said very good things about John Laing.

John Laing was a careful builder, and he also built a fine life.



Quiet moment to reflect

- We are all building our lives. None of us are finished yet. We can choose to be wise or we can be foolish.
- We can build our lives on unkind things like lies, stealing, shouting and being mean or we can build our lives on good strong values like being kind, telling the truth, love, prayer and thankfulness.
- Sit quietly for a moment and think about what you want to be like.

Prayer

Now I am going to say a prayer. If you want to make it your prayer, say 'Amen' (which means I agree) at the end after me. Otherwise just sit quietly and think about what you have heard today.

Dear God, help me to be a good builder as I build my life. Help me to be kind, patient, loving, thankful and truthful.

Amen

The Parable of the Two Builders

Jesus' parable of the two builders can be found in Matthew 7.24-27 and Luke 6.46-49. Here is a simple version of it – to be read with expression and actions.

Handy Andy was wise and clever
He took his time, so that his house would last forever

Silly Billy was foolish and daft
He built fast... but he's going to need a raft!

Wise to build your house upon a hard rock where it won't ever roll
Foolish to build your house upon soft sand where it will fall into a hole

A storm came, heavy rain fell from the sky
But on Andy's strong house he could rely

A storm came, heavy rain fell from the sky
Billy's weak house fell, and he started to cry.

Wise to build your house upon a rock where it won't ever roll
Foolish to build your house upon soft sand where it will fall into a hole

Be wise - build your life upon something strong!
Turn away from all that is weak and wrong!