

A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

Rocks and Sand

Based on Luke 6:46–49 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 5 and up

CAST SIZE
5 puppets

PERFORMANCE TIME
8–10 minutes

PROPS REQUIRED
Doll-sized hardhats and toy tools;
thunder and rain sound effects

MAIN THEME

A life built on obeying Jesus stands when the storms come; a life built on anything else does not.

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To print just the play on its own, print pages 5-10.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

GIRL and BOY talk about BOY's uncle, who lost everything and is living through a real "storm." That leads into Jesus's story of the two builders—one who builds on rock, and one who builds on sand for the sake of speed and appearance. When the storm comes, only the house on the rock survives, and GIRL and BOY connect the story back to their own lives.

Spiritual Concept

It's not enough to call Jesus "Lord"—a life built on actually obeying His teaching is the one that stands firm when hard times come. The SAND builder isn't lazy or foolish-looking; he's confident, stylish, and fast—right up until the storm exposes what his house was really built on.

Age Suitability

Suitable for all ages.

Performance Time

8-10 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

GIRL — About 10 years old.

BOY — About 6 years old; his uncle has just gone bankrupt and moved in with the family.

NARRATOR — Not necessarily a puppet; narrates the parable of the two builders.

SAND BUILDER — Arrogant and self-assured; a costume change (sunglasses, Hawaiian shirt) after his house is finished adds a nice visual beat.

ROCK BUILDER – Careful, and determined to follow the building code even when it's slower and less impressive.

Prop Options

- Doll-sized hardhats for the Builders (search “doll hard hat” online – plenty available)
 - Hammers or tools for the Builders
 - Sound of thunder and rain (rattle an aluminum pan or use a purchased “thunder tube” for thunder; dried rice in an empty paper-towel tube for rain).
 - Sound of hammering and drilling (real tools and a block of wood work well).
 - Sing “The Wise Man Built His House Upon a Rock” with the audience.
 - Change the SAND BUILDER's clothes after his house is finished, for a visual contrast with the building phase.
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PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

New to puppets? General prep, technique, and voice tips live at gospelpuppets.org/getting-started.

Character Notes

SAND isn't played as stupid—he's confident and a little smug, genuinely convinced that stilts and speed beat a boring, slow foundation. His scorn for “codes” (“building codes are for sissies and losers”) is the character's flaw, not comic incompetence.

ROCK stays calm and unbothered by SAND's teasing throughout—his patience while SAND's house goes up faster and looks better is part of what makes the ending land.

Staging

Use the thunder and rain sound cues to build the storm before ROCK re-enters to discover SAND's house is gone—let the storm sounds run long enough to feel like a real overnight event.

The costume change on SAND BUILDER (sunglasses, Hawaiian shirt) after his house is finished is a quick, visual way to show time passing and his confidence peaking right before the fall.

A wonderful, fun (and totally optional) way to include more people, especially pre-readers desperate to help, is to have a hand-held "curtain" ready for any scene-changes. Have one of the puppets call out "Scene change!"—one whose character suits the interruption—and the helpers can run up and screen the center stage for a moment, while chimes are rung and while the puppets switch places.

Reading the Script

CAPS = volume/intensity or emphasis.

Ellipsis (...) = the author's pacing notation.

ROCKS AND SAND

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(Enter GIRL and BOY. They greet the audience.)

BOY: Do you know what BANKRUPT means?

GIRL: It means all of your money is GONE. Why?

BOY: My uncle has had to move in with us, because now he is BANKRUPT.

GIRL: Oh no, what happened?

BOY: Well, first my uncle lost his job, and then he went and GAMBLED, and then he lost all his money from THAT.

GIRL: So now he is bankrupt. That is awful.

BOY: I feel like I'm living in the middle of a STORM.

GIRL: Yeah, that is hard.

BOY: But guess what?

GIRL: What?

BOY: Jesus knows ALL about it, and He is HELPING me.

GIRL: HOW is He helping you?

BOY: Well! Jesus knows EVERYTHING, right?

GIRL: Yes, everything, but...

BOY: AND He is with us all the TIME, right?

GIRL: Right, but...

BOY: So! I don't need to be scared or worried. It's hard, but I can be SURE of God.

GIRL: That is so cool. But...

BOY: And my mom and my dad love Jesus too. So everything will work out OK in the end.

GIRL: But...What about your UNCLE?

BOY: Oh, well, HE thinks it's the end of the WORLD! He has lost everything he cares about!

GIRL: When you said something about a storm...that it's like being in the middle of a STORM, you reminded me of something.

BOY: What?

GIRL: Jesus told stories about storms, and LUKE wrote the stories down in the BIBLE. Want to hear one of them?

BOY: Sure!

GIRL: There are some other puppets that will tell it. Let's make room for them!

BOY: OK!

GIRL: Scene change!

(Helpers can hold up a curtain while chimes are rung)

(Exit GIRL and BOY. If possible, stay on stage to the side.)

(Enter NARRATOR. If NARRATOR is a puppet, use a side window if possible to stay onstage. If it's a person out front, stay near the stage.)

NARRATOR: Two people bought land by the ocean. Both of them studied the local building codes carefully, and then made their plans for their houses.

(Enter two BUILDERS. If space is tight, exit NARRATOR.)

ROCK: Hey, you must be my new neighbor! How do you like this ocean view?

SAND: Just what I have always dreamed of, a house right on the BEACH! I'm starting construction on it today!

ROCK: We will be neighbors, then. My house will be back a-ways, though. See that rock up there?

SAND: *(scornfully)* Why on earth would you build way back THERE?

ROCK: Because...it is so much safer.

SAND: It's going to take you forever to walk to the water every day. Now, as for ME, I am building MY house right here. On the beach.

ROCK: But...what about when a storm comes in? Your house will wash away!

SAND: Oh, no, it won't. My house will be up on STILTS! That way, even at high tide, I will be sitting pretty!

ROCK: Stilts, huh?

SAND: Yes. Tall poles. With the house up high!

ROCK: I guess that MIGHT work...so...you'll dig down deep through all the SAND, and attach the stilts to the solid rock UNDERNEATH.

SAND: No! Are you crazy? Who KNOWS how deep I would have to dig? No way...

ROCK: But...what about storms? This close to the ocean, the building code says to drill RIGHT into the bedrock.

SAND: (*scornful*) I know that. I have read the codes.

ROCK: Why not do it, then?

SAND: I know what I'm doing. And I do not have TIME for that.

ROCK: OK, but I can't agree.

SAND: Look, by the time my house is finished, you will barely have your FOUNDATION done.

ROCK: True, but...built on a ROCK, I will know that my home is secure.

SAND: And what a waste of money! Listen to ME, pal. Put your money where it SHOWS. Big windows, big deck, you know!

ROCK: Yes, I do know...I have read the building codes for this area and—

SAND: Codes! You and your codes. Building codes are for sissies and losers. Take my word for it, my way is the BEST.

(Exit BUILDERS. Enter NARRATOR.)

NARRATOR: And so, the two builders went their separate ways.

(Add sounds of hammering and sawing backstage.)

NARRATOR: The house on the sand was soon finished, weeks before the house up on the rock. The house on the sand was truly beautiful to see.

(Exit NARRATOR. Enter BUILDERS. ROCK is still wearing a hardhat, but SAND has sunglasses, maybe a Hawaiian shirt.)

SAND: (*sarcastic*) Howdy there, neighbor! How's the big project going?

ROCK: Slow, but steady!

SAND: Bet you wish you were done, like me! Heh, heh-heh!

ROCK: Yes. Building on a rock in the sun is hot work.

SAND: I've been watching you, slaving away up there while I relax, here on the beach.

ROCK: Your house certainly is beautiful to look at.

SAND: Yes. That is all that matters, isn't it?

ROCK: Well...I'm going to take a dip in the ocean, and then get back to work.

SAND: Sure. You go ahead. I'm going to walk along the beach and enjoy the sunset. No more work for me! Heh, Heh.

(Exit BUILDERS. Enter NARRATOR.)

NARRATOR: Again, the two builders went their separate ways. The second house, up on the rock, was finally finished. But what is that I hear?

(Sounds of thunder.)

NARRATOR: Shortly afterwards—

(Sounds of thunder.)

NARRATOR: —a powerful storm struck the coastline.

(More thunder.)

NARRATOR: It raged all night long!

(More thunder, then let it fade away.)

NARRATOR: The next morning—

(Enter ROCK, without the hardhat.)

ROCK: That was quite a storm last night, but what a perfect morning!

(ROCK looks all around.)

ROCK: Just look at that lovely ocean...nothing but big waves, and sand...as far as the eye can see...as far as the eye can see!... Wait a minute!

(ROCK gasps.)

ROCK: Something's missing! The house on the beach! It's GONE! I better go call 9-1-1!

NARRATOR: Scene change!

(Helpers can hold up a curtain while chimes are rung)

(Exit ROCK and NARRATOR. Enter GIRL and BOY.)

BOY: My uncle is like that foolish man!

GIRL: Yes. But I just thought of something.

BOY: Of what?

GIRL: Whenever we go to the beach, we make a big sandcastle.

BOY: Oh, I love building sandcastles! I always make mine really close to the water...so that when the tide comes in, the waves DESTROY it!

GIRL: Well, I don't—why would you want to go to all that work, just to have the waves wash it all away?

BOY: Because it's a SANDCASTLE, silly. If I was building something, and I wanted it to last, I would build it on a rock!

GIRL: Ha ha! Just like the story Jesus told!

(Enter NARRATOR.)

NARRATOR: Jesus said, "So why do you keep calling Me 'Lord, Lord' when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it is like when someone comes to Me, listens to My teaching, and then FOLLOWS it.

GIRL: It is like a person building a house, who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock.

BOY: When the floodwaters rise, and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built.

(Enter ROCK and SAND.)

ROCK: But anyone who hears, and does NOT obey, is like a person who builds a house without a solid foundation.

SAND: When the floods sweep down against that house, it will COLLAPSE into a heap of ruins.

NARRATOR: You can read more about the wise and foolish builders in Luke, Chapter 6.

ALL: Let's ALL build our lives on the Lord Jesus!

ALL: Goodbye!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. Why did SAND builder think his way was better, even though he knew the risks?
2. What does it mean to “hear” Jesus's words but not “obey” them?
3. BOY says his uncle is “like that foolish man”—what do you think he means?
4. What are some ways we can make sure our lives are built on the “rock” of obeying Jesus, and not just calling Him Lord?
5. Have you ever gone through a “storm” in your own life? What helped you stand firm?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Luke 6:46–49 – Jesus compares those who hear and obey His words to a person who builds a house on solid rock, and those who hear but don't obey to a person who builds without a foundation.

Song Suggestions

- “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock” – Frank McConnell –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/6ibE8PhcTSspPAd81zoJ9S>
- “Steadfast” – Praise and Harmony –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/29KH66DVIgreg00ddjzpYb>
- “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me” – The Mills Brothers –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/03bajDarcxGA2NvabP84x8>

Ministry Context

This play works well for a series on obedience, or on weathering hard times with faith. It's a strong fit any time the congregation includes families facing real financial or life storms, since BOY's uncle grounds the parable in something concrete rather than abstract. Consider pairing with a reading of Luke 6:46–49 or the song “The Wise Man Built His House Upon a Rock.”