S’mores Stackers

**Topic: Build Your Life on a Solid Foundation**

**Matthew 7: 24-27**

Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.

**Supplies:**

* Graham crackers
* Marshmallows
* Hershey chocolate bars
* Table big enough to build two S’more towers

**Optional (for outside activity afterwards):**

* Build a bon-fire
* S’mores ingredients for all
* Roasting sticks to put marshmallows on

**Game Directions:**

1. Divide preteens into two equal groups and line them up.
2. Put table on opposite area from preteens and put the S’mores ingredients on table.
3. One at a time each preteen will race to the table.
4. At the table, players will assemble a S’more – Graham Cracker / chocolate / marshmallow / Graham Cracker
5. Players then place their fully constructed S’more on their team’s side of the table and run back the their team.
6. The next preteen will then run down and do the same except
7. Player needs to stack their S’more on top of the previous one.
8. Continue the same process for all players.
9. If a tower falls, whichever player is at the table next must rebuild the entire stack before returning to the team.
10. The winning team is the one with the highest tower.

Note: Allow players to build the towers any way they want - straight up, pyramid style, wall style, etc.

**Say:** Both teams did great. The S’more towers look awesome and delicious! All we need now is a bon fire, and we are ready eat ☺.

**Ask:**

* How hard was this to stack the S’mores?
* How did you feel if the stack fell over?
* Was there a time you felt like this wasn’t going to work? Why?

**Say:** The only way the tower was going to stand high was if the bottom was solid. Another name for the bottom is the foundation.

What is a foundation? (Take a few responses)

The definition of foundation is “the lowest load-bearing part of a building”. Basically, it is the bottom of a building that holds all the weight and makes it strong.

The game we just played depended on a good foundation, or the entire stack of S’mores would fall. Some of you may have experienced that when your stack fell. Maybe the table shook.

When it comes to your relationship with Jesus, if you don’t have a good foundation things will be harder. In fact Jesus tell us how important a good foundation is in Matthew 7: 24-27.

Have preteens look up verse and have a volunteer stand up and read it out loud.

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

The rock foundation Jesus is talking about is God, and the truths He had been telling everyone about. The sand foundation Jesus was talking about was what the religious leaders had been teaching at the time, which was more about following laws, rules and rituals.

**Ask:** So how do have a good foundation in God? (Get responses)

Say: Excellent answers! One of the most important things we can do to build a foundation is believe what he says is true and put it into action. When do this, the second sentence of the verse tells us what will happen.

**Matthew 7:25:**

Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.

When hard times come, bad things happen, we feel like our lives are about to fall apart. However, when we put into action God’s truths, we’ll be okay. Bad stuff will happen in our lives, but we will stay strong because God will be holding us up. He will help us through the bad stuff.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some things in a preteens life that you worry about?
2. How do you handle these things?
3. How can you build a better foundation?
4. What is one thing this week you can work on personally to strengthen your foundation with God?

Have preteens get into groups of two and pray for each other.

(If there are preteens that not comfortable doing this have leaders lead prayer in smaller groups. Ask preteen for prayer request from questions above)

End in prayer.

Optional – Go outside and enjoy S’mores by a fire. Yum!