

Short Sheet # 18

Tackling Rough Terrain

(Fifth of five follow-up Bible Studies for after camp)

To the Leader: The following discussion is designed to establish these truths with kids:

- Difficulties are a given in life - they come to both believers and non-believers;
- We can and should prepare for difficulties before they come;
- The proper preparation for difficulties is to put God's word into action;
- People who put God's word into action are able to walk through difficulties and make it to the other side safely.

Ice Breaker

Describe the worst storm or act of nature you've ever experienced. What damage was done? How did you respond? Were you prepared? Why or why not?

Bridge Statement

We're going to talk about storms today - the storms of life. We want to find out exactly who goes through storms and what we can do to prepare ourselves in advance.

Examination of Scripture

- Read Matthew 7:24-28 and discuss the following questions:
- Who is speaking in this passage? Do you think he is speaking to a group of homebuilders about smart construction principles? No, Jesus is speaking symbolically. He is speaking in what we call a parable, a symbolical story that represents deeper truth. Let's look at the symbols.
- What do the houses represent in the story? What does the storm represent? List some of the "storms" that come our way in life.
- What does the rock represent? What does the sand represent? Which house is hit by a storm? (both houses) In life, who goes through difficulties? (everyone)
- If the difficulties are guaranteed to come, what can we do ahead of time to prepare for them according to this story? (Put Jesus' words into practice.)
- What are some of the lies people build their lives on today? What happens to people who build their lives on the sand when the difficulties come?
- List some of the truths we've talked about in Campaigners over the past few weeks, or other truths you know of from God's word. Is it enough to be able to list these truths? What must we do to be able to withstand life's storms?

A Verse to Meditate on and Memorise

- Matthew 7:24, "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Application

Think back over the past week(s) of your life. Name a storm that has come your way. Describe the effect it has had in your life. Were you prepared? What truth(s) do you need to act on from God's word to prepare yourself in the future for this kind of storm?

Action step for the Week

- Pay attention to the storms that come your way this week, even if they are more like mild thunderstorms than devastating typhoons. Take note of your "house" in the storm. Did your windows get rattled? Did the roof collapse? If so, what truth could have helped hold things together? Be prepared to share this next week.
- (Note: Supplies are needed for this activity.) The leader hands each person a clean rock, small enough to fit in his or her pocket, and a paint pen. Each person paints "Jesus" on his or her rock and the reference "John 16:33." ("I have told

you these things that you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”) Send the kids out with the confidence that Jesus is with them and He has overcome the world. Ask them to keep this rock handy this week and to hang on to it anytime they face a difficulty. Next week ask them to share the results.

