

# Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION  
OF THE WORD OF GOD

for Children



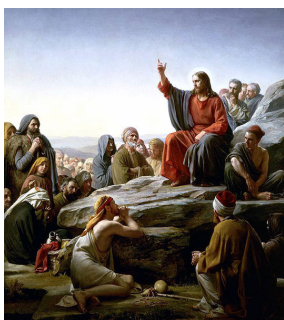
Psalm 119:105  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path.

Spring 2013

## The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5-7

Jesus was traveling in Galilee. He was teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom and healing people of every kind of disease. He was becoming famous, and many people from the surrounding areas came and followed Him.



Seeing all the people, Jesus went up into a mountain. When He had sat down and His disciples came to Him, Jesus taught them many things. He preached a beautiful sermon, known to us as "The Sermon on the Mount." He began by declaring who are the blessed people. We call these the *Beatitudes*, which means *blessed*. Here are a few other things that Jesus said:

- You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.
- I didn't come to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it.
- Anger is sin. Lust is sin.
- Do not swear by heaven or by earth. Answer simply 'yes' or 'no' when asked.
- Turn the other cheek when someone slaps you.
- Love your enemies and pray for them.
- You must be perfect, as your Father in heaven is.
- Give, pray and fast in secret. Your heavenly Father will reward you openly.
- Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.
- Do not be anxious about anything.
- Do not judge.
- Ask, and it will be given to you.
- Good trees bear good fruit; bad trees bear bad fruit.
- Not everyone will enter the kingdom of heaven, but those who do the will of the Father will enter it.

Nearing the end of His sermon, Jesus said:

**"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."**

**"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."**

Matthew 7:24-27

The wise man who built his house on the rock had a sure and solid foundation. When the storms of life came, his house stood firmly on the rock. The foolish man who built his house on the sand had no sure foundation. When the storms of life came, his house shifted and fell apart.

### What is this Rock?

Jesus is the Rock of Ages, who fulfilled the holy Law of God in our place. Jesus lived a sinless and perfect life, and then offered Himself in our place on the cross of Calvary. He took our sin and gave us His perfect righteousness.

We cannot build on the Rock of Jesus ourselves. God does even that work for us. We cry out to Him and He saves us. We trust and believe in His salvation, and praise Him for it.

**I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock...**

Psalm 40:1-2



"All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres!" *Maltbie D. Babcock*

Spring is the perfect time to teach young children of the wonders of nature. Toddlers enjoy the little things in life. They like bugs and birds. They like plants and animals. They discover with glee the first daffodil. They whisper in awe seeing baby birds in a nest. They watch with bright eyes a fawn or calf. They giggle and try to mimic the deep, throaty voice of a bullfrog. They love nature!

Take your toddler for a nature walk in early spring. Show them the trees and flowers waking from their winter sleep. Find a bird's nest, but do not disturb! Listen to the frogs. Watch a baby animal. And remind them that the God of the universe created all these things.

Jesus made the willow tree;  
Jesus made the honey bee;  
Jesus made the birds so free;  
He made you and He made me.

## Tots

Four-Six Years

## The House on the Rock

Why did the house on the rock stand firm when the rains came and the floods rose and the wind blew? Under your house, there is a *foundation*. It may be made of concrete blocks, poured concrete or stone.

Most of it is probably under the ground, but you may be able to see a little of it below the siding on your house.

Try this experiment, with an adult's help:

- Fill a square container with damp sand.
- Press to form a sand block.
- Set the sand block in one half of a 9x13 pan.
- In the other half of the pan, set a flat rock.
- Draw doors and windows on two paper cups for "houses."
- Set one house on the sand block and one house on the rock.
- Fill a pitcher with water.
- Carefully pour water over the house on the sand. What happens?
- Carefully pour water over the house on the rock. What happens?

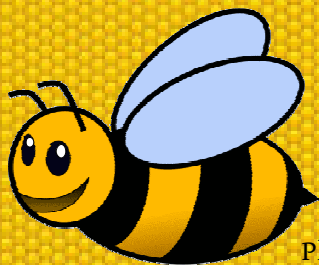


The house on the sand falls because the *foundation* under it fails. The water washes away the sand under the house. The house on the rock stands firm because its *foundation* is solid. The water does not wash away the rock under the house. The house that has a strong *foundation* stands.

What is the *foundation* of your life? The Lord Jesus is the Rock of your salvation. Jesus is like a concrete block, or poured concrete, or stone. He never will fail or wash away. He is the only strong *foundation*.

O come, let us sing unto the LORD:  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Psalm 95:1



## The Bee-Attitudes

*Beatitude* means "blessed." Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount that many different kinds of people are blessed.

We can only be blessed people when Jesus makes us clean and pure through faith in His blood. There are difficult words in the Beatitudes. Please discuss them with an adult, so that you understand them.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (*poor in spirit = humble, not proud*)  
 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. (*mourn = be sad, as when someone you love dies*)  
 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. (*meek = quiet, gentle*)  
 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (*righteous = right, just, free from sin*)  
 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. (*merciful = be forgiving, gracious*)  
 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (*pure in heart = sinless*)  
 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.  
 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.  
 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 5:3-12

We cannot obey the requirements of the Beatitudes. Because we are sinful, fallen people, we cannot save ourselves. The "pure in heart" will see God, but we cannot make ourselves pure in heart. Jesus came to fulfill the Beatitudes—and all of God's holy Law—in our place. We are truly blessed people when we know that Jesus paid the price for our sin and we trust Him to save us. "Bee" joyful and praise His name!





Try this at home: Stand and hold a book at arm's length. Let go of the book. What happens? The book falls to the floor.

Gravity is the “pulling” force that the earth exerts on every object near it. Gravity is constant. When you let go of the book, you didn't wonder if—just this time—it would float up in the air and hit the ceiling or fly to the side and hit the wall. You knew that the book would fall when you let go of it.

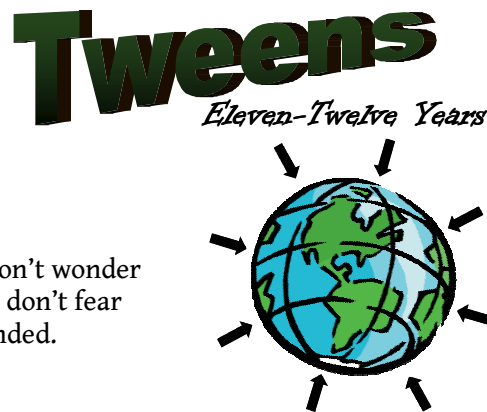
You TRUST gravity. It always does its job, pulling down toward the earth. You don't wonder if your feet will stay on the floor when you jump out of bed in the morning. You don't fear floating right out of our atmosphere. You know that gravity will keep you grounded.

## God is even more constant than gravity.

You can trust God more than gravity. He is unchanging and eternal. His promises are sure and His Word is true. The LORD's faithfulness is to every generation. He has established His faithfulness in the very heavens and He cannot lie. He is merciful to you daily and His compassion does not fail. You can TRUST Him even more than you trust gravity.

**It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23**

**I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. Psalm 89:1-2**



**El Capitán** (which means “the captain”) is a vertical rock formation in Yosemite National Park. This granite monolith rises about 3,000 feet above its base. Look at the glorious handiwork of our God!

*El Capitan* is immense and solid, apparently changeless and firm. Yet *El Capitan* could be moved, with the right equipment and an incredible amount of work. It would take piles of dynamite and teams of bulldozers, but *El Capitan* could be physically moved from its location in California. Or, if the earth remained for multiple millennia, wind and water would eventually erode *El Capitan* down to a modest hill.



## God is even more solid than *El Capitán*.

**The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. Psalm 18:2-3**

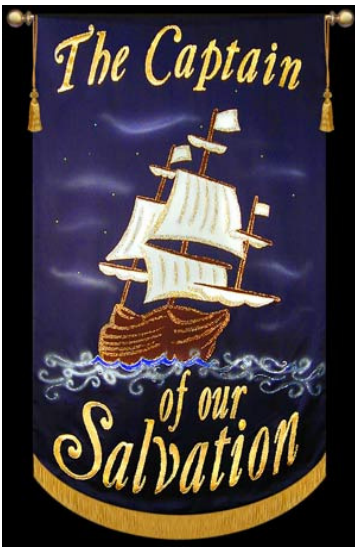
**The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted. Psalm 18:46**

God is a Rock. He is truly immovable and sure. Dynamite and bulldozers will never move our God. The erosion of wind and rain will never wear Him down, not even through countless millennia.

God lives eternally. He does not sleep; He does not tire. He remains through every season of every year. He existed before the dawn of time and He will exist when time is no more. And through all these countless ages, past to future, God has been more unchangeable than granite.

Because of His permanence, we can say with David, “Blessed by my Rock! May the God of my salvation be exalted!”





What is a military captain and what does he do? A captain's responsibilities are great.

- The captain provides. He arranges food and shelter for his men. He ensures that provisions are sent ahead when his men are marching, so that, when they arrive, everything they need is ready and waiting.
- The captain gives commands. He tells his men when to stop and when to go, and what to do.
- The captain leads. A good captain leads from the front. He doesn't stand behind his men and tell them where to go, but goes before them to show them the way.
- The captain encourages. When the battle is tough and the enemy is strong, the captain cheers his men with his presence and his word.
- The captain rewards. When the battle is over and the enemy is conquered, the captain gives commendation to his men.
- The captain is responsible for his army. If his men make a mistake, it is the captain who bears the blame.
- An admirable captain loves his men and treats them as his own family.

## Jesus — the Captain of Our Salvation

- Jesus cares for us; He provides food and shelter for us. He has made sure that our heavenly home will be ready and waiting. "I go to prepare a place for you," He said.
- Jesus has commanded us to preach the Gospel and teach all nations, to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins, to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus has gone before us to show us the way. He has given us His example in life, as well as in death. As He rose again, so will we rise from death on the last day.
- Jesus encourages us. When Satan tempts us or the world bedazzles us, Jesus cheers our hearts with His presence through the Spirit and His encouraging Word.
- Jesus rewards us in eternity. When the battle is over and Satan is defeated, our heavenly home will be our inheritance, our reward.
- Jesus has taken responsibility for us. He has borne the blame for our sins on the cross of Calvary.
- Jesus loves us with a great love; He even calls us His brothers.

All things exist *for* God's sake and purpose, and all things are made *by* God. It was proper that God, in bringing many children to the glory of heaven, should make the Captain of our Salvation complete through suffering.

**For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. Hebrews 2:10**

"Perfect" in this verse means "complete," not "free from fault." Jesus was always free from fault and without sin. God thought that it was fitting for His Son Jesus to be complete through suffering. He suffered by becoming a human, living with sinners for over thirty years, being betrayed by His friend, being unjustly sentenced to death, being beaten and spit upon, and, finally, by dying as a criminal on a cross. As he hung there, Jesus cried, "It is finished!" or complete. His suffering was finished. Next came the glorious resurrection! Through the whole of His suffering, Jesus brought many children to glory.

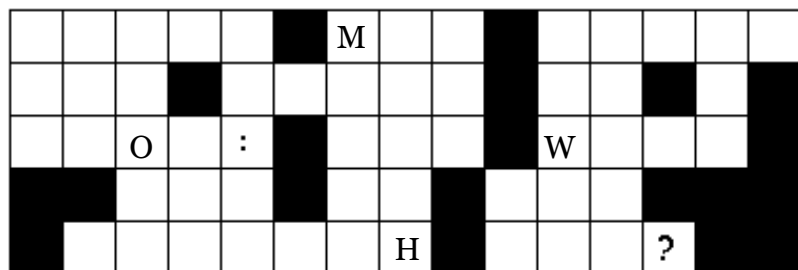
## *It's a Boy ... or a Girl!*

God made you a *male* or a *female*. He knew you before you were formed in your mother's womb. He determined whether you would be a boy or girl. Of all God's creatures, only humans are made in His image.

God made animals, but not in His image. God uses an interesting process to determine if certain animals will be boys or girls. Reptile eggs, like turtles and crocodiles, become boys or girls if the *temperature* is warmer or cooler while the eggs are waiting to hatch. If the temperature is 34°C or warmer, the eggs will become male crocodiles. If the temperature is 30°C or cooler, the eggs will become females. God's world is interesting!



**Fallen Phrase:** Rearrange the letters below each column to reveal a question, when reading across row by row.

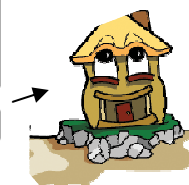
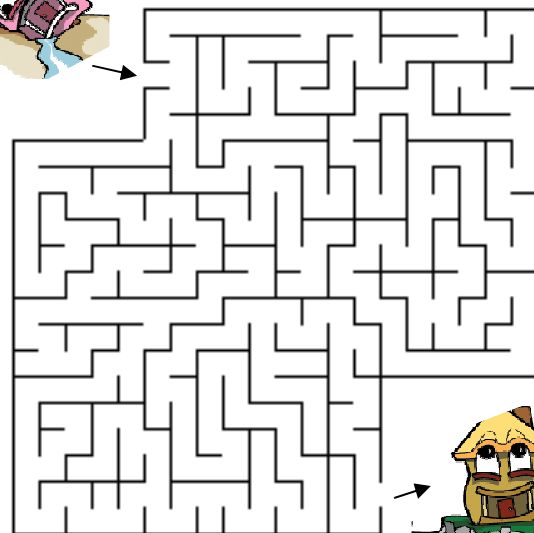


M T A H N  
F I C H M S W E  
W O C O N S H N A U E  
R H O A H O O R E M O N I A  
H I S K L I U H E T B I S L T



Write the answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Travel through the maze from the foolish man's house to the wise man's house.



## WoRd FiNd :)

Find words from the story on page 1.



P L G B L L I F L U F E  
P E R F E C T D A J S N  
T Q Z K R A M R T I O G  
H N I S L E T U W L C S  
F O U N D A T I O N T X  
S T M O H N G Q T O B F  
E D O S M X Y O R U O V  
R A D T S I Z M S O D O  
M K G N X O S H L P A E  
O C N F U U Y I M B E W  
N O I G J S S B D W M L  
D R K W V H E S U O H D

ANXIOUS  
BEATITUDE  
FOOLISH  
FOUNDATION  
FULFILL  
GOSPEL  
HOUSE

KINGDOM  
MOUNT  
PERFECT  
ROCK  
SERMON  
STORMS  
WISE



How many  
bees are  
on this page?



## THE WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE ON A ROCK!

Puzzle Fun



Answer Key: page 7

			12
	4		11
1		4	7
		4	14
8	11	13	8

## Number Fill-In



- The missing numbers are integers between 0 and 5.
- The numbers in each row add up to totals to the right.
- The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.
- The diagonal lines also add up the totals to the right.



The wise man built his house upon a rock.  
The wise man built his house upon a rock.  
The wise man built his house upon a rock,  
And the rains came tumbling down.

The rains came down and the floods came up.  
The rains came down and the floods came up.  
The rains came down and the floods came up,  
But the house on the rock stood firm!





## here Is Life!

By Bruce Sannes

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Luke 24:1-7

"They feel fuzzy!" granddaughter said as she rubbed her thumb across the little white bud.

Grandpa and almost-seven-year-old granddaughter were on an adventure to find the first pussy willows of the spring. They had stopped to look at a big tree that a beaver was trying to cut down. There was a trail where the beaver went back and forth to the water, and there were wood chips all around the tree.

Of all the grandkids, "almost-seven" granddaughter was the one most interested in nature. She was always inspecting bugs, snakes, rocks and anything she could find outdoors.

"Some churches used pussy willows to decorate for Palm Sunday," Grandpa said, while pulling a branch down to eye level. "They didn't live where they could get palm branches. I suppose they used pussy willows because it was the only thing that bloomed so early in the spring. Remember, Palm Sunday is the Sunday just before Easter."

Granddaughter snipped off a twig with the shears. "They sure feel fuzzy. They do kind of look like tiny baby kittens. I was looking for them way out in the swamp, not right here along the edge."



"Look how everything in the woods looks so dead now that the snow has melted," Grandpa said, looking all around the swamp and woods. "It must be like how the followers of Jesus felt after He was killed on the cross and buried in the tomb. Everything feeling dead and hopeless. But just like when our eyes suddenly see a bush filled with white, fuzzy buds right in the middle of the dead-looking woods... There is life!"

**There is life!** Jesus rose from the grave on Easter morning! When we see Jesus rise from the grave, we know that there is life after death and Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Oh, what a wonder—Jesus rising from the dead in the middle of a dead and hopeless world! What a miracle—that Jesus has the power over death for Himself and for each of us who follow Him. ~

There are 9 bees on the puzzle page.

**How many bees?**

P	L	G	B	L	L	E	L	L	F	L	L	E	F	E	N
F	E	R	F	E	C	T	D	A	J	S	N	G	O	Z	K
H	N	I	S	I	E	T	U	L	W	L	C	S	X	T	I
E	O	U	N	D	A	T	I	O	N	T	X	F	G	O	T
S	T	M	O	H	N	G	O	T	O	B	F	V	O	R	O
E	D	O	S	M	X	V	O	R	O	V	O	A	D	O	O
R	A	D	T	S	I	Z	M	S	O	D	O	F	A	E	W
M	K	G	N	X	O	S	H	L	P	A	E	W	B	D	W
O	C	N	F	U	U	V	I	M	B	E	W	L	S	B	D
N	O	I	G	J	S	S	B	D	W	M	L	T	H	S	U
D	R	K	W	V	H	E	S	U	O	H	D	T	E	S	U

**Puzzle Answer Key**

8	11	13	8
14	4	5	5
7	4	2	1
11	5	4	2
12			

**Number Fill-In:**

**Fallen Phrase:** Which man built his house on a rock: the wise man or the foolish man?

**Answer:** the wise man

## Dear Father God,

Thank You for the stories that Jesus told, especially for the story of the wise man and foolish man who built houses on rock and sand. Keep our house built on the Rock of Jesus. He is the Captain of our Salvation!

Thank You for the blessings You give us every day—for our houses that stand in the storms and wind, for food and clothing, and for our family and friends. Thank You for pussy willows that show us life in the spring.

Help us every day to love You more!

**In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

## Christian Monthly for Children Vol. III—No. 1

Online Subscription: Suggested donation to [christianmonthlyalca.org](http://christianmonthlyalca.org)

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### Address subscriptions, payments,

**and Book Concern orders to:**  
Anders and Clara Sundqvist, Managers  
THE BOOK CONCERN  
PO Box 2126  
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The *Christian Monthly for Children* is published quarterly for electronic distribution by:

Apostolic Lutheran Book Concern  
19113 NE 144th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606

## For Parents:

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ~Galatians 5:22-23*

**W**hat an intimidating phrase! Fruit-bearers. Bringing forth love and joy and peace. We realize our inability to restrain our own sinful flesh, so how can we teach a child to restrain his? How can we teach our children to be *loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, gentle, good, faithful, meek, temperate*—all the “fruits” of the Spirit—when we do not bear this fruit consistently ourselves?

The fruit of the Spirit is singular. We can’t have one and not another. We can’t have love, and no joy; patience, and no peace. The singular fruit is an effect borne of the indwelling Spirit of God. It is a part of *Him*, not a part of us.

Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. He says that if He abides in us and we in Him, we will bear fruit—much fruit. We may not see evidence of the fruit, but it is there. Without our awareness, fruit is growing and ripening on us.

Jesus, the Vine, is the Source of our life. Without Him, we can do nothing. He is the fruit of the Spirit in us. When Jesus lives within us, we will bear the singular fruit of His Spirit. God will always draw us to His way and prompt us by His Word. He will prune us, trimming the stray ends and cutting off the non-productive shoots to keep the fruit-bearing branches healthy and vigorous.

***I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ~John 15:5***

Because of the indwelling Spirit, we can raise our children to be *loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, gentle, good, faithful, meek, temperate*. The same Spirit that lives within us and prompts us, that corrects and teaches us, will do its good work within our children. We can rest in the goodness and provision of God our Father, our Maker and true Vinedresser.

