

**FAMILY LESSONS ON  
THE MIRROR OF TRUTH**

**Based on James 1:23-24**

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**LESSON #4**

**CASTLES ON THE BEACH**

**“Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says  
is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself,  
goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.”**

*James 1:23-24 (NIV84)*

My children and I used to build sand castles whenever we went to the beach. We liked to build close to the water where the sand is firm and wet and easy to build up into high walls and towers. But eventually, the surf would always come in and our beautiful castle, sitting on sand, would collapse into ruins.

Jesus once spoke to a crowd while sitting on a hillside. The people were amazed at His teaching because they had never heard anyone speak with such authority (Matthew 7:28-29). Jesus asked those people a very important question, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ but do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46) Then He told them a story about wise and foolish builders. He said that everyone who listens to His teaching and then acts on what he has heard is like a wise man who built his house on solid rock. When a flood came, it could not move that house because it was well built. But everyone who listens to that same teaching and then does not act on what he has heard, is like a foolish man who built on the sand with no foundation. And when the flood came, that house immediately fell into ruins. Jesus was warning that just because we hear the truth, even if we are amazed by it, if we don’t act on that truth, it won’t help us. In fact, Jesus was saying that it is a very dangerous habit to hear the truth and do nothing because it reinforces a destructive pattern. A person who lives that way not only loses the benefit from the truth he hears, but his life becomes like a house sitting on sand, a disaster just waiting to happen.

*Read Jesus’ parable of the wise and foolish builders for yourself (Matthew 7:24-27). How is James’ message about the mirror similar to this parable (James 1:22-24)?*

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to [www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse](http://www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse) on the Immanuel Christian School website.