

## Community-Developed

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## **Straw, Stones, and Sand vs. Bricks and Rock** A Devotional During a Pandemic

Do you remember the story about the three little pigs? The first little pig built his house of straw. It wasn't a very good or a very strong house, but he didn't care because he didn't want to work all day... he just wanted to dance and play. Piggy #2 built his house with sticks; it was neither good nor strong, but he didn't care either because he just wanted to sing and play rather than work all day. Now the third little pig, built his house with bricks, mortar and hard work resulting in a good strong house. We know what happens next... the big bad wolf comes along, huffing and puffing destroying the houses made of straw and sticks but not touching the house made of bricks.

Jesus tells a similar story in Matthew 7:24-27 where He describes two possible foundations on which to build a house – sand or rock. It doesn't take long to figure out which the better option would be. The houses were both exposed to rain, floods, and winds. Jesus tells us that the house founded on the rock did not fall but the house on the sand fell and “great was its fall.”

So, what do these anecdotes have to do with Covid-19 and the panic and fear that is gripping so many people? As followers of Jesus, we are building our lives on Him who is our rock, our sure, unshakable foundation. It is our confidence and trust in Him that gets us through rough waters. We build faith and trust by intentionally building our faith using materials like God's Word, sharing stories of God's faithfulness, participating in our church community, and paying attention to where God is at work. This intentionality and preparation for stormy weather takes work, it doesn't just happen. If you have some extra time these days, spend time with your Rock! He is the only way through these storms of life.

Listen to Dottie Rambo's song “I Go to the Rock” – it will put a smile on your face.  
<https://youtu.be/dOZuhtoS4GE>