

# Life in a Sand Castle Condo

From *What's Growing Under Your Bed?*

By Martha Bolton

A Comedy Sketch About the  
Importance of a Good Foundation

**Characters:**

INTERVIEWER  
FOOLISH MAN  
WISE MAN

**Setting:**

Two houses. One should be well built upon a rock foundation. The other is barely standing up because it was built upon the sand. The home with the rock foundation is marked "Wise Man's Home," and the home with no foundation is marked "Foolish Man's Home."

**Props:**

Microphone for INTERVIEWER  
Umbrella for WISE MAN

*(Sketch opens with INTERVIEWER standing in front of the two houses.)*

INTERVIEWER *(to audience)*: Hello, and welcome to another installment of "Life-styles of the Wise and Foolish." Today we are visiting two famous homes—the home of the wise man, and the home of the foolish man. You may have read about them in the latest issue of *Parable People* magazine. *(Turns and looks at the houses)* Now, obviously, this is the home of the wise man on my left. . . . We can tell which is which by simply looking at their foundations. . . . Also, the nameplates over the doors help a lot. *(FOOLISH MAN enters, INTERVIEWER looks up and sees him approaching.)* Ah, here comes someone now. I believe it's the Wise Man. *(To FOOLISH MAN)* Excuse me, sir, but are you the Wise Man who built his house upon a rock?

FOOLISH MAN *(scratches head)*: Duh—a rock, huh? . . . Uh, what's a rock?

INTERVIEWER: I'm sorry, sir. My mistake. This must be your house over here. (*Motions toward FOOLISH MAN's house.*)

FOOLISH MAN: Duh—how'd you guess?

INTERVIEWER: Let's just say you're both put together rather . . . loosely. (*Taps finger against head indicating the FOOLISH MAN is a few bricks shy of a load.*)

FOOLISH MAN (*taking it as a compliment*): Thank you. I built it all by myself. . . . 'Course, I did make a few mistakes here and there. The downstairs is upstairs, the patio's indoors, and the kitchen sink has a shower attachment; but other than that, it's a well-built home.

INTERVIEWER: But, sir, if you don't mind my asking, why did you build your house upon the sand?

FOOLISH MAN: It was cheap.

INTERVIEWER: But—don't you realize a house built on sand won't stand?

FOOLISH MAN: It won't, huh? Well, just what's it doing now?

INTERVIEWER: Quite frankly it's leaning, sir.

FOOLISH MAN: That's just because everyone's in the family room tonight. Wait till they go to their bedrooms. It'll level out.

INTERVIEWER: But, sir, if you don't have a rock foundation, what are you going to do when it rains and all this sand turns into mud?

FOOLISH MAN: So I slide over a zip code or two, I'll just have my mail forwarded.

(*WISE MAN enters, carrying unopened umbrella and looking very—how should we put it—wise. INTERVIEWER turns and sees him approaching.*)

INTERVIEWER: Ah, this must be your neighbor coming now.

FOOLISH MAN (*without turning around to look*): Does he look intelligent?

INTERVIEWER: Yes, very.

FOOLISH MAN: Does he look smart?

INTERVIEWER: Very smart.

FOOLISH MAN: How 'bout "wise"?

INTERVIEWER: Yes, as a matter of fact, he does look wise. So, is it your neighbor?

FOOLISH MAN (*sarcastic*): No, it's my twin brother. (*Yells*) *Of course it's my neighbor! . . . And I don't want to talk to him!*

INTERVIEWER: Why? Don't you two get along?

FOOLISH MAN: Are you kidding? Do you know what it's like for a foolish man to live next door to a wise man? . . . We get on each other's nerves something awful.

INTERVIEWER (*sarcastic*): I can't imagine why.

FOOLISH MAN: Neither can I! But do you know he has the gall to complain about where I park my car?

INTERVIEWER: Why? Where do you park your car?

FOOLISH MAN: Against his tree. The brakes went out.

INTERVIEWER (*sarcastic*): The nerve of him!

FOOLISH MAN: I know! . . . And he complains about the way I mow my lawn, too.

INTERVIEWER: Why? How do you mow your lawn?

FOOLISH MAN: Annually.

INTERVIEWER: You mean, you only mow it once a year?

FOOLISH MAN: Yeah, but it takes me a whole week to do it!

INTERVIEWER: Well, if you don't mind, I would like to ask him a few questions.

FOOLISH MAN: Sure . . . if you want "intelligent" conversation. Personally, I find it boring.

INTERVIEWER (*to WISE MAN*): Excuse me, sir, but I couldn't help admiring your beautiful home. It certainly has a good, strong foundation.

WISE MAN: Thank you. (*As he continues talking, FOOLISH MAN mouths the same words he's saying*) I've always felt a good foundation is the key to a beautiful and lasting home.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, I agree.

WISE MAN: But now—some people (*FOOLISH MAN yawns*) will just go and build a home on anything—like sand, for instance. (*Laughs*) I mean, sand castles are nice, but would you want to move into one? (*WISE MAN and INTERVIEWER both laugh.*)

FOOLISH MAN: Go ahead and laugh, but I'll show you! (*Looks up*) Look! It's going to rain. Now I'll prove my house will stand up to even the heaviest downpour.

INTERVIEWER (*holds hand out to feel raindrops*): He's right. It is starting to sprinkle.

FOOLISH MAN: Yeah, I'll show you! You'll see!

WISE MAN (*opens up umbrella, then says to FOOLISH MAN*): Excuse me, but if you'll turn around, I think you'll see your house is starting to fall.

FOOLISH MAN: Oh no, you don't! I know what you're up to. You're just trying to trick me into turning around, aren't you? . . . Well, it's not going to work. (*He folds his arms and refuses to turn around. Meanwhile, his house does, indeed, fall. This can be accomplished by ropes controlled offstage, but invisible to the audience. The house falls with a crash, but he still doesn't turn around.*) Great sound effects, but I'm still not budging!

WISE MAN: Suit yourself, but you know some people refer to their home as a flat?

FOOLISH MAN: Yeah?

WISE MAN: Well that's what your home is now.

FOOLISH MAN: What?

WISE MAN: Flat.

FOOLISH MAN (*now he turns and looks*): Ohhhh! My beautiful home! It's gone!

WISE MAN: Yeah, it couldn't even hold up under a sprinkle!

INTERVIEWER: So, tell me, have you learned your lesson? . . . Next time are you going to build your house upon a rock instead of on sand?

FOOLISH MAN (*surveying the damage*): Yeah, I suppose that is the best way. . . . But, you know, there is one advantage to all of this.

INTERVIEWER: What's that?

FOOLISH MAN: Well, my wife always did say she wanted a sunken living room!



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