

LESSON 7

The Tower of Babel

GENESIS 11:1-9



BIBLE TRUTH

WHEN MAN EXALTS HIMSELF, GOD WILL HUMBLE HIM

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5-10 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 7)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 7

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Confusion of Another Language

SUPPLIES: statements in a foreign language

Puppet Show

SUPPLIES: puppet; several wooden blocks

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-80 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5-10 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will hear how God confused the languages of the men who were building the Tower of Babel.

If you or one of your helpers know a foreign language, have them say something to the children, and then ask the children what the person was saying. Tell them what was being said, and translate the words for them one at a time.

Divide the children up into two groups. Have the first group stand and pretend to stack bricks to make a wall. Give them specific instructions on how to pick up a brick, spread some mortar on it, and lay it on top of another brick. Then have the second group stand and tell them they are going to build something different. From this point, start explaining the building instructions to them in a foreign language or just use gibberish. (If they ask what language you are speaking, you could make up a name such as “Gibberese.”) You are trying to get them to nail some boards together. They will likely try to lay bricks but you should object. After a short time, stop your babbling and ask them (in English) how it felt to hear instructions in a language they didn’t understand. Tell them that you wanted them to nail boards together, and ask them if they understood those instructions. They will likely say no.

Explain why God confused the language, and tell them that God is all-powerful. We can’t just do what we want; we need to obey the Lord.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 7, “The Tower of Babel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

For whom were the people making the tower?
(for themselves)

Did the people ask God for help or try to build the tower on their own?

(They wanted to build it on their own.)

Did God think the tower was a good idea? *(no)* Why not? *(If the people were successful in building the tower without asking for God's help, they would do as they pleased for nothing would be impossible for them.)*

What did God do to stop them from building their tower and city?

(He confused their languages; they couldn't understand one another anymore.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

Can anyone say anything in a different language?

(If so, invite them to speak to the class and see if the class can guess what they are saying. If no students volunteer, have a helper say a simple word or phrase in another language, e.g., bonjour, aloha, shalom, and see if the children can guess what it means.)

When people from another country talk, what does it sound like?

(Accept any answer.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 7—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

What is more important: doing great things or doing great things for God? Why?

(Accept any answer, but elicit that it's better to do great things for God.)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Revelation 7:9–10

Ever since God scattered those who were building the tower of Babel, people have been divided into separate groups speaking different languages. But believing in Jesus changes all that.

By ultimately wiping out the effects of sin, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross tears down the dividing wall between people and God. It also tears down the walls between individuals and between one group and another. Right now, all those who believe in Christ are citizens of one holy nation. And when the curse of our sin is broken and our unity in Jesus is made complete, people of all languages and nations will worship Christ together in heaven.

The book of Revelation tells us that everyone in heaven will worship God with the same words. Today we speak in hundreds of languages. But in heaven we will all sing with one voice.

Who gives us the strength to do the things we do every day?

(God)

What is it called when we take all the credit for the things that we do?

(boasting or bragging)

Can anyone give me an example of boasting?

(Accept any answer.)

Look at your coloring sheet. Where do you think all the people are who were building the tower?

(God confused their language, and they were scattered.)

The Confusion of Another Language

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ statements (see below) written in a foreign language.

Invite someone to class who speaks another language. Have them prepare the following statements in their native tongue or teach you to speak them yourself.

- Stand on one foot.
- Jump up and down.
- Cover your eyes.
- Turn around.
- Clap your hands.

Ask for three volunteers to come up to the front of the room. Tell them you are going to play a game like “Simon Says.” When you give them a command, they must obey. After explaining the rules, randomly give them the above commands in English.

Thank them and ask for a second group of volunteers.

This time, after explaining the rules, give them the same commands but in a foreign language. Keep repeating the commands and watch their confusion. Thank them for coming up and have them return to their seats.

Then ask the class the following questions:

How well did the first group do?

How well did the second group do?

Why didn't the second group do well?

How is this game like the story of “The Tower of Babel?”

Puppet Show

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet
- ✓ four or five wooden blocks

Puppet: *(stacking wooden children's blocks on a table four or five high)* Ta dah! I did it!

Teacher: What did you do?

Puppet: I made this tower all by myself. No one helped me!

Teacher: That is a nice tower.

Puppet: It is not a nice tower; it is an awesome tower! And I did it myself!

Teacher: Isn't God good for giving you the skill to build that tower?

Puppet: I guess. Now all of the children will know that I, Puppet, can build a tower all by myself. All the children will go home and tell their parents, and they will spread it all over town. Soon the whole world will know that I, Puppet, can build a tower all by myself!

Teacher: Puppet, you are boasting. If it weren't for God, you would not be able to build anything. If God didn't make the trees, there would be no wood to make the blocks. If God didn't give a person the skill to make you as a puppet, you wouldn't even be here. We should always give God the glory for the things he enables us to do.

Puppet: I guess it is easy to forget God and think you are doing things on your own without him. Teacher?

Teacher: Yes?

Puppet: How about this: look what God helped me build!

Teacher: Why Puppet, what a lovely tower! Isn't God good?

Questions for Discussion:

How did the puppet act like the people who built the Tower of Babel?

(The puppet was boasting about what he'd built.)

Who can tell me what it means to boast?

(to talk about what you have done or what you have so others will think that you are great)

What are some things that you or your friends might boast about?

(learning to ride a two-wheel bike, getting somewhere the fastest or being first in line, being stronger than others, knowing more than another person)

What should we do instead of boasting? *(Give God the glory for what he allows us to do.)* Can someone be like (puppet's name) and show

the class how we can give God glory for something we can do?
(God helped me learn to ride a bike without training wheels this week, etc.)

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 7 - THE TOWER OF BABEL

