

LESSON 7

The Tower of Babel

GENESIS 11:1-9



BIBLE TRUTH

WHEN MAN EXALTS HIMSELF, GOD WILL HUMBLE HIM

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read Genesis 11:1–9 from the Scriptures or read story 7, “The Tower of Babel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN**
Confusion of Language
SUPPLIES:
✓ photocopies of Bible quiz (one for each student)

- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**

- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
Comparing Pride

- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**

- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN**
Reversing Babel
SUPPLIES:
✓ paper and pencils

- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**

- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN**
Babble

TOTAL 90 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Man's sin invites God's judgment—In this passage, the desires of the people building the tower had nothing to do with God or his glory. Their only ambition was to build themselves a city and “make a name” for themselves. God's response was to scatter those sinful people by confusing their language.

Man's pride reveals our need for God—Apart from the grace of God, our pursuits will always lead us to exalt ourselves. Without God, we are hopelessly lost and trapped in our own self-worship. Even noble attempts to build or accomplish something (whether in school, or sports, or the arts, or anything) can easily become just another way to worship ourselves instead of God. God must break into our lives before we can become aware of our need for him.

What sin has scattered, grace will gather—Scattering people, as God did at Babel, is one way that he judges the proud and disobedient. This ruins the sinful plans of the proud to exalt themselves. It can also help them realize how much they need God because their sin has made them blind to God. But God honors and gathers to himself those who obey his Word. God delights in exalting the humble but opposing the proud.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

The “Us” of God

In Genesis 11:7 we read, “Come, let us go down and there confuse their language.” Since we do not find angels or foreign powers at work in the passage, the plural “us” can be safely interpreted as a reference of the multiple persons of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Then in verse 8 we read, “So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth.” Now we see that the Lord is one, not many. The mystery of three persons in one God is in many ways beyond our comprehension but not beyond mention in the Word of God. (Although this verse does not clearly reference three persons, it does suggest the mystery of more than one person in the Godhead.)

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Genesis 11:1–9 from the Scriptures or read story 7, "The Tower of Babel," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Confusion of Language

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ photocopies of Bible quiz (one for each student)

The object of this exercise is to give the children an experience of the confusion of languages at the tower of Babel. (The last three questions of the quiz are in a language that the children will not be able to understand.) Explain to the children that you are going to give them a quiz. Pass out the quiz face down. (Do not make double-sided copies of the two pages.) Explain to the children that they may not speak during the test, but they can raise their hand if they have a question. Start the exam.

When they get to the second page, a host of hands will go up, and some may comment, saying that they cannot understand the questions. Have them do their best to answer the questions anyway. (Some may give answers that might prove to be humorous to review if time allows.)

After the exercise, ask what it was like to suddenly have their language confused. What must it have been like for the men building the tower to suddenly not understand one another?

■ **Why do they think God confused the language of the men?**

(Accept any answer.)

English translations for questions 8 through 10 are as follows:

- 8. Why did God judge the earth with a flood?
- 9. How many days and nights did it rain?
- 10. What did God place in the sky as his promise never again to judge the earth by flood?

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Comparing Pride

Read Daniel 4:28–37 about Nebuchadnezzar’s pride. Ask the class how this story is similar to the story about the tower of Babel. (The builders of the tower, like Nebuchadnezzar, were self-sufficient and self-satisfied and lived in the belief that they didn’t need God.)

Ask the class where they are tempted to only think of what they want. Have they ever wanted something so badly that they didn’t think about what others wanted or needed? Have they ever done something they knew to be wrong?

Close the object lesson by asking the class what God wants us to do when we know we've done something wrong. (repent) If appropriate, consider praying as a class.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN

Reversing Babel

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils

Have the children read Revelation 7:9–10 and then give them fifteen minutes to write a paragraph on how God's actions to separate people at the tower of Babel are reversed bringing God's people back together through the gospel. Monitor their progress, and pick three or four of the children to read their papers in front of the class.

Spend some time describing the three basic elements of a paragraph: (1) introductory sentence that introduces the topic, (2) development of the topic, and (3) concluding sentence summarizing their opinion or conclusion.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Babble

Break the children up into groups of six to eight. Give them time to come up with a skit about the events at the tower of Babel. First, have them act out a scene in which they are all cooperating in the building of the tower. In the next scene in which God confuses their languages, they should scatter to the corners of the classroom. Take time to watch the skits and then talk about how this story explains why there are people with very different languages all over the earth.

LESSON 7 - THE TOWER OF BABEL

OBJECT LESSON 1—GENESIS BIBLE QUIZ

1. What were the names of the first two people God created?

2. What did God use to create the first woman?

3. What was the name of the garden he placed them in?

4. What was the name of the tree that grew the forbidden fruit?

5. Who was the first man to kill his brother?

6. What did Noah build?

7. Who all helped build the giant boat?

8. Waarom beoordeelde de God de aarde met een vloed?

9. Hoeveel dagen en nachten regende het?

10. Wat plaatste de God in de hemel als Zijn belofte om de aarde doorvloed opnieuw nooit te beoordelen?
