



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11

STORY POINT: PEOPLE TRIED TO BUILD A TOWER TO GLORIFY THEMSELVES INSTEAD OF GOD.

After the great flood, God told Noah and his sons to grow their families and fill the earth. Noah's sons and their wives had children, and the people started to travel through the land.

One day, the people traveled through a valley. They decided to stay.

"We don't want to be scattered all over the earth," they said. "Let's build a city and a tower so big that it touches the sky. The tower will make us famous!"

The people were not doing what God had told them to do. They were saying "Look how great we are," instead of "Look how great God is." But God is greater than anyone. God created people to give glory to Him alone.

The people used stones to start building the tower.

God came down to look at the tower. God said, "They will keep thinking up more bad things to do." So God mixed up the people's words. Everyone spoke different languages.

When people tried to make plans, they could not understand what other people were saying. The people had to stop building the city. Families had to move away from each other to live with people they could understand. The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What are ways we seek glory for ourselves?
- Why does God deserve all the glory?
- How can we bring glory to God?

Christ Connection: People chose to give glory to themselves instead of God. They ignored God's plan, so God confused their language and scattered the people all over the earth. One day Jesus will gather together all of God's people—people from every tribe and people who speak all kinds of languages—and they will worship Him together. (Revelation 7:9-10)

Word Scramble

INSTRUCTIONS: Unscramble each word and then put them in order to form the story point.

riedr ot ePopel uibld
stinead ot fgolriy a
woter shemtelevs fo dog.



BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- God told Noah's family to spread out and have many children.
- Noah's descendants chose instead to settle in one place and build a tower into the sky.
- People tried to build a tower to glorify themselves instead of God.
- God mixed up their languages so they could not finish the tower.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What are ways we seek glory for ourselves?
- Why is God the only one who deserves Glory?
- How can we glorify God?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Purchase a 3D puzzle and try to put it together as a family. Talk about how much harder it would be if you did not speak the same language. Discuss ways we can glorify God when we work or when we play.



DOWNLOAD the LIFEWAY KIDS APP

The Tower of Babel

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw a line connecting each brick with where it belongs on the tower.



Preschool Activity Pages

Unit 1 • Session 5 The Tower of Babel

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous.
- God was not happy about what they were doing.
- God mixed up their language and the people spread out over the earth.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why was God not happy that the people wanted to build a tower?
- Name a time you have tried to make yourself famous.
- What will happen when Jesus brings His people back together?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Host a family competition to build the tallest block tower. Review the Bible story. Talk about doing all things for God's glory.
- Attend a worship service as a family in a language different than your own. Talk about what it will be like to hear people in every language worship Jesus together.



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THE TOWER OF BABEL

Genesis 11

Key Verse: "All things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together!"
Colossians 1:16b - 17

BIBLE & SCIENCE

HUMBLE YOURSELF

Supplies: 2 pieces of scrap paper, clear jar, flat lightweight plate, match, paper towel, water

1. Fold a full sheet of paper towel in quarters and get it wet. Squeeze out all the excess water.
2. Lay the dampened paper towel in the center of a flat lightweight plate.
3. Place a scrap piece of paper in the jar and turn the jar upside down. Press the mouth of the jar into the damp paper towel.
4. Grab hold of the jar and lift (Nothing unexpected happens. The jar comes away from the plate.)
5. Now, try again with one thing changed. Loosely wad up the other piece of scrap paper (no larger than 3" x 4"). Light a match and catch the scrap of paper on fire. When it has a flame, drop it down into a jar.
6. Turn the jar upside down and press the mouth of the jar into the damp paper towel.
7. The flame will go out. Wait for 3 seconds.
8. Then, grasp the jar and lift it straight up. The plate should come with it.

What happened the first time you lifted the jar from the plate? What happened the second time? What were you able to do once the paper was burned up?

Read James 4:10. What has to happen before God can lift us up? What does humble mean?

When we humble ourselves, we acknowledge - we admit - that God is so much greater than we are. This is exactly what the people at the tower of Babel did NOT do. They wanted to be greater than God and for that they were punished. The jar represents God, the plate represents us, and the paper is our pride (how great we think we are). Discuss the difference between what happened the first time we raised the jar and the second time. **We had to smother our pride (the paper) before God (the jar) could lift us (the plate) up.** What kind of things do we need to be lifted up from? Why do you think we need to humble ourselves before God can lift us up?

"JESUS IS LORD"

Let's learn how to say "Jesus is Lord" in different languages. Use an online translating tool to hear the proper pronunciations.

Spanish: *Jesus es el Señor*

French: *Jésus est Seigneur*

Portuguese: *Jesus é senhor*

Swahili: *Yesu ni Bwana*

German: *Jesus ist der Herr*

Tagalog: *Si Hesus ay Panginoon*

Today in our lesson everyone's languages and words got mixed up. One day, people from every group and every language will worship Jesus together. Let's pray that many people all over the world will believe the Good News about Jesus.



M-UM-UMBLE J-UM-UMBLE

Teach your kids a "secret" language by inserting an "um" sound directly before each vowel sound in a word. For example, "Pumeople trumied tumo bumuild uma tumowumer tumo glumorumifumy thumemsumelves uminstumead umof Gumod.

Wow! It was very hard to understand one another when we used that mumbled, jumbled language. When you expect a person to speak a language you understand, it can be frustrating to hear him or her speak a language you don't. Do you think it would keep you from finishing a project together?

BUILDERS GUILD

Give your kids spaghetti noodles and mini marshmallows. Instruct them to use the spaghetti and marshmallows as building material and see who can build the tallest tower. For an added challenge have them pair off and try to build a tower together, but with NO talking.

That was fun, but difficult. Can you imagine how hard it would be to build a real tower without speaking the same language. It might not even be possible! Today we heard about what happened when people decided to build a tall tower to bring glory to themselves instead of giving glory to God. What happened when they tried to do that?

FUNNY VOICES

Invite your kids to say this week's verse but to say it in different funny voices such as a baby, a robot, gorilla, chipmunk, someone who is happy, someone who is tired, someone who has a cold, and so forth. Or maybe you have a fun voice changer on your phone!

Hearing you all speak in different voices was funny! Even though you used a different voice, I still understood what you said. In today's Bible lesson God mixed up the people's words. They couldn't understand what others were saying. What do you think that would be like?

DOWNTOWN ZOO QUESTIONS

After watching our video and reading the provided Bible passage go through these questions as a family. These are great questions to discuss as a family. Don't just have your child answer, answer them together and discuss the lesson.

1. What did God tell Noah's family to do after the flood? Did they obey God?
2. What did the people want to build to make themselves famous?
3. What did God do about the people building the tower? Why did they have to stop building the tower?

UPTOWN KIDS QUESTIONS (LIGHTHOUSE & THRIVE)

1. What had God asked Noah's family to do after they got off the ark? What did the people do instead?
2. Why did they want to build a tower?
3. How did God stop them and force them to spread around the world?
4. God always does what is good and right. Can you think of reasons it is good and right for God to confuse the people's languages and stop their building project?
5. Why is it wrong to seek glory for yourself?
6. How can you give God glory instead of seeking glory for yourself? Why does God deserve all glory and honor?