

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
- 4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Comparing Pride
- 6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Different Ways to Say God
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ handout sheets (one per child) with the word “God” written in several different languages. (Look up the word “God” in several languages on the Internet and copy and paste a few of them into a document with enough space for the children to copy them below.)
 - ✓ markers or pencils
- 8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Many Languages

TOTAL 75 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.

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

Have two adult leaders act out two scenes from the tower of Babel. First, have them act out two workers declaring their own praise for how well the tower construction is going. Then have

one of them start speaking in another language. (This could be humorous as the two groups of workers react toward one another not understanding why their coworkers are babbling.)

Ask the following questions of the class:

- **What kind of name might the people have given their own tower?**
(They might have called it the Mighty Tower or the Mighty Man's Tower or the Sears Tower or the Empire State Building.)

- **Who did the people building the tower worship?**
(They worshiped themselves.)

- **What kind of title is Babel for a tower?**
(It is a silly or perhaps even embarrassing name.)

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 right then.

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 **10 MIN**

Different Ways to Say God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ handout sheets (one per child) with the word “God” written in several different languages. (Look up the word “God” in several languages on the Internet and copy and paste a few of them into a document with enough space for the children to copy them below.)
- ✓ markers or pencils

Pass out the sheets in class and have the children copy the words and then try to guess what the words say. They should be surprised to find they all say the same thing: God.

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Many Languages

Invite foreign language speakers in your church community to visit your class. Have them tell the class their name along with the country and language they represent. Then have them share a simple sentence or two with the class and have the children try to guess what they said. Then they should translate their message for the children word by word. Point out to the class that God confused the languages so it is God who actually is the creator of all the different major languages on the earth. When we marvel at the many languages and how unique each of them sounds, we should also marvel at God who created them.

LESSON 7 - THE TOWER OF BABEL

