

Lesson 11

The Tower of Babel

Objective

Study Genesis 11: The Tower of Babel and learn that God wanted people to occupy all the earth and why we have many languages.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Tower of Babel Activity Sheet – one per student
- 1 Sheet of Paper – cut into squares - one square per student
- Different Colored Markers - for teacher to write with
- Small Empty Bucket or Container to put paper pieces – one to share
- Scissors
- Bibles – enough for everyone to have one
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers (for attendance)



Optional Supplies

- Visual Aid – one for class to share
- Jenga Game/Building Blocks/Lego Pieces – enough for all students to play/share
- Small Marshmallows and Toothpicks – For each student to have about 20-30
- Paper plate – one per student to hold their marshmallow creations
- Snack: Cheese and Crackers (in brick shapes) enough to share

Teacher Tips

- ★ See Lesson One to Review

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance.

Share with students: **Last week what did we learn about?** Noah's son who was disrespectful and how Shem, Ham, and Japheth spread throughout the world.

This week we will continue to study about Noah's descendants and how God spread them throughout the world to inhabit the entire earth.

2) Class Time - The Tower of Babel

10 minutes

Have Bibles and Visual Aid if using.

Ask students to get their Bibles and turn to **Genesis 11:1-9** to read the account of the Tower of Babel.

Then ask the following:

After the Flood how many languages were there in verse 1? One

Why did the people want to build a tower? To make a name for themselves – pride. And to avoid spreading over the earth – keeping everyone close.

Was God alone when He said they needed to be stopped in verse 7? No, because He said, "come let us". Jesus and the Holy Spirit were there as well! Another time the Old Testament points to Christ!

Why did God confuse their language? So they could not understand each other and continue to build the tower which would allow them to remain proud and prevent them from spreading over the earth as God directed Noah in Genesis 9:1 and 7.

From this we see that when we disobey God and try to do things for our glory instead of Him, bad consequences will happen, like it did to the people who were more interested in building a tower, than to move around the earth and fill it. But if we trust and follow Him, He will guide and take care of us as He did for Noah and his family.

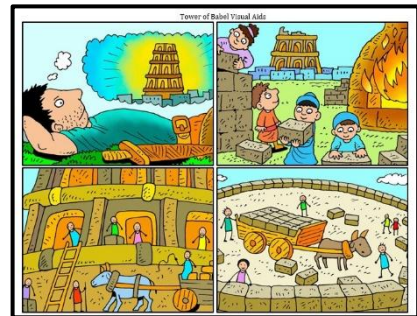
Let's see what the Bible says about our plans and God's plans for us. Let's turn to the following verses and read them:

Isaiah 48:17-18

This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

"I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.

If only you had paid attention to my commands,
 your peace would have been like a river,
 your well-being like the waves of the sea.



Psalm 119:34-36

³⁴ Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law
and obey it with all my heart.

³⁵ Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.

³⁶ Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.

From reading these verses, who has a better idea of what is best for us and what we should do and where we should go? God does!

What happens when we follow and listen to God? God promises we will have peace like a river and be well in spirit.

Any words you don't understand or questions you have? Answer if you can, tell them you will get back to them and do next week if you need to ask someone for help in answering the question.

Let's all sing a song to help us remember that with God and by following Him we can have peace like a river as well! Let's all stand as we sing:

I've Got Peace Like a River

(Actions in Blue)

I've got peace like a river (2x)

(Make the "Peace" Sign – 2 first fingers up in a "v" shape, then
Move your hand like it is going over bumpy waters)

I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got peace like a river (2x)

(Make the "Peace" Sign – 2 first fingers up in a "v" shape, then
Move your hand like it is going over bumpy waters)

I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got love like the ocean (2x)

(Cross your arms over your heart, then pretend you are surfing on the ocean.)

I've got love like the ocean in my soul.

I've got love like the ocean (2x)

(Cross your arms over your heart, then pretend you are surfing on the ocean.)

I've got love like the ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain (2x)

(Wave fingers in the air, then pretend to be a statue in a fountain)

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain (2x)

(Wave fingers in the air, then pretend to be a statue in a fountain)
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got peace like a river.

(Make the "Peace" Sign – 2 first fingers up in a "v" shape, then
Move your hand like it is going over bumpy waters)

I've got love like the ocean.

(Cross your arms over your heart, then pretend you are surfing on the ocean.)

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

(Wave fingers in the air, then pretend to be a statue in a fountain)

I've got peace like a river.

(Make the "Peace" Sign – 2 first fingers up in a "v" shape, then
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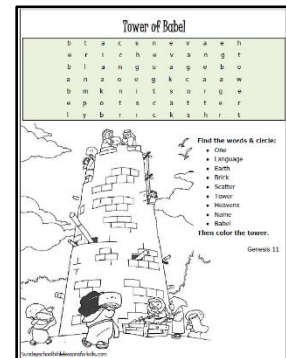
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

(Wave fingers in the air, then pretend to be a statue in a fountain)

3) Tower of Babel Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out the Tower of Babel activity sheet along with crayons. Allow children to circle the words in the word search and to color the page. Read the directions and words to the children as they start to ensure children who have trouble reading can know what the words say and mean. As students work ask them how each word in the list relates to the story of the Tower of Babel. Let them color the picture if time, especially if you are not doing some of the optional activities.



4) Babel Talk Activity

5 minutes

This is a fun way to experience what the events of Babel would have sounded like. All you need is some colored construction paper, an empty bucket, and some kids ready to make noise!

Before class cut about 1" squares of paper... and choose 3 or 4 colors from the markers. Whatever the color, write that color's name on 1 square – do this for 2 squares: Example red marker – write RED on two different squares. Continue until you know you have enough squares for your group of students. 8 students = 8 squares, 10 students = 10 squares. If 2-4 squares – 2 different colors only, if 5-6 squares – 3 different colors only, if 7+ squares – 4 colors maximum.

Fold each paper in half or quarter and put in a container.

Before playing explain:

Each of you will take a turn drawing a square, don't look at it or share what's on it, until I say, "Go!" Then open it, read it and say it out loud over and over until you find others who have the same word as you. Each color group needs to be assigned a specific corner to assemble when they found all the students in their group. If you are _____, go to this corner...

(Assign each color a corner of the room and tell them.)

During class have the children, one by one, put their hand in the container and get a square. Play the game until all are in the correct corners.

If students enjoy this, they can play it again, have them all re-fold and put their colors back in the container.

5) Optional - Jenga/Building Blocks/or Lego Pieces

15-20 minutes

If you have the Jenga game, building blocks, or Lego pieces, hand them out to the students. Read the instructions of the Jenga game to the children (basically the goal is to at first build a structure with all the pieces then each child takes a turn removing one piece and then placing it up top – the game stops when the building falls over because too many pieces have been removed and moved somewhere else making the structure unstable. This is to remind them of the Tower of Babel. It was a building that was started and then left once the languages were confused.

Or, if you have Lego, let the children work together to build a structure and talk about the Tower and why God wanted them to stop building it – not because the building was bad, but because the people's attitude was not right. They wanted to do it for pride and to stay together when God had told them to spread over the earth instead. When done ask the children to help clean up before moving on.

6) Marshmallow Building Activity

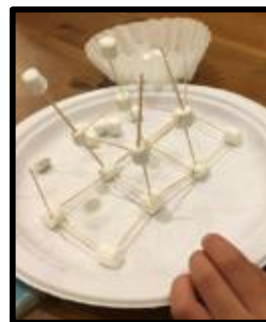
10-15 minutes

Prep

Gather small marshmallows, toothpicks, and paper plates for students, have a marker or pencil for them to write their names.

Activity

Hand out marshmallows, toothpicks and a paper plate to each student. Tell them to write their name on their paper plate before starting. Tell them they get to build the Tower of Babel using marshmallows to connect the toothpicks together. See how high they can build! Help if needed. Remind them that building something is not wrong, but if doing anything for the wrong reason or because of pride (wanting to be better than others) than that is wrong.



Allow students to take home their creations after worship is over, leave them in the classroom until then so they don't eat too much sugar.

7) Optional – Snack: Cheese and Crackers (Brick Shape) 5-10 minutes

Hand out 2 or 3 cheese and crackers (in brick shape) along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that: **God did not want people to stay all together in one place; God knew that they needed to go through the whole world so God confused the plans of the people who were trying to build the tower made out of bricks. Just like our cheese and crackers that are in brick shapes! Remember that we need to follow God and what He says, if we don't we aren't doing what He needs us to and we can't be effective in our lives! Let's remember to follow God and not man!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

8) Optional – Learning Books of the Old Testament or Songs 5 minutes

Practice learning Books of the Old Testament you can sing them to the ABC Song.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges....

9) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities/snacks have been cleaned up.

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Write them down. Ask all students to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray. Start below if you need help and then add the other prayer requests of the students.

Thank You Father for all You do. Help us to always be respectful to You and others. May we follow Your directions and not our own, knowing that You know what is best for us. May we not be prideful. We pray that we will find opportunities to help others this week and to serve You Lord.

Thank You for our families and for Jesus, Your Son. Be with those who could not be here today and for any who are sick or suffering. It is in Jesus' name, Amen.

10) Things to Remember

Thank the students for coming.

Encourage them to share what they learned with their family.

Take their activities home.

Make sure students leave with a responsible person.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!