



# THE TOWER OF BABEL

GENESIS 11:1-9

## GOAL

- ▶ To help children understand that we should depend upon God, not upon our own personal or collective strength.
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## CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Builders:** The people who lived in the area gathered together to build a tower in defiance of God.
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## MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Philippians 4:13:** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
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## OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read Genesis 11:1-9:** Following the flood, God told the people to multiply and populate the whole planet. The people, who all spoke the same language, decided that they didn't want to do this, instead they wanted to stay near each other. So they built a city and began to construct a tower that would reach Heaven. The people were beginning to rely on themselves instead of God, so He confused their speech. What was once one language became many, making cooperation impossible. God scattered them across the whole face of the earth.



## SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ The Tower of Babel can be a fascinating lesson for kids. At its core, the story is about human insufficiency apart from God. God wants man to be dependent upon Him, because that is the only way that life can have true meaning and fulfillment.

For added interest, you may wish to see if any children in the class can speak a foreign language. You may also want to print words in foreign languages and see if children can read it. You may also play recordings of foreign languages or speak another language yourself.

## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Crack the Code | Supplies:** paper with the secret code and the key to the code printed or written on it.

Write out the entire alphabet, and starting at the letter A, assign each letter a number starting from 1 (e.g., a=1, b=2, c=3). Divide the class into teams and give them the key to the code. Give both teams the following code to crack:

14 15 23 20 8 5 23 8 15 12 5 5 1 18 20 8 8 1 4 15 14 5 12 1 14 7 2 1 1 7 5 1 14 4 20 8 5  
19 1 13 5 23 15 18 4 19

Each underlined set of numbers corresponds to one word in the code. The first team to crack the code wins! The answer is: "Now the whole earth had one language and the same words."



MEMORY  
VERSE  
MEANING

- ▶ **Philippians 4:13:** Doing anything is possible only through Christ's strength, and with Christ's strength, we can do all things we are called to do.

POST-LESSON  
ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Different Languages | Supplies:** paper or Post-It notes.

Give each student a piece of paper with "hello" written in a foreign language. There should be two to three children who receive the same language. When you say "Go!" they should find other children who speak their language. Whoever groups together first wins. This activity works best with groups of 12 or more.

Here are some translations of hello in several languages: Shalom (Hebrew), Guten Tag (German), Hola (Spanish), Bonjour (French), Bula (Fijian), God Dag (Swedish), and Ciao (Italian).

TAKE  
HOME

- ▶ God made us to worship and depend on Him. He gave us abilities and talents to be successful in our lives, but we must always remember that without God, we are nothing.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



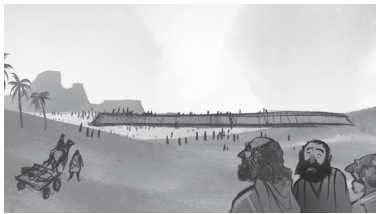
**Q1a:** Where did the people begin settling?

**A1:** The people began to settle in Babylon.

**Q1b:** If you could move to any city in the world, where would it be and why?

**TN:** Let students answer. The people living at the time of this story chose this area because they could grow crops and be with other people.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did the people living in this area decide to do?

**A2:** They decided to build a city and a huge tower that would reach up to Heaven.

**Q2b:** Would you rather live next door to your best friend or in a city in another state?

**TN:** It would be much easier to see our best friend if we lived next door to each other. This is pretty much what the people living in this area thought. Living near other people would make it easier for them to trade, they would have people nearby that they could be friends with, and together, they could offer each other protection. Even though God had told the people to multiply and populate the entire earth, the people decided that they didn't want to do that. They were disobeying God.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** As the people began to rely on their own power, who did they forget?

**A3:** The people forgot about God.

**Q3b:** Why did God see the people's ability to take care of themselves as a bad thing?

**TN:** Being able to take care of ourselves is not a bad thing. God gives us all of the skills and talents required to live a good and successful life. The problem God saw growing in this community was that they were starting to take credit for their ability to take care of themselves. They had forgotten who gave them those abilities. Forgetting God and their growing independence quickly led to them disobeying God by not going out and populating the whole earth.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What did God do?

**A4:** He began to confuse their language so they couldn't understand each other.

**Q4b:** Is it okay to speak more than one language?

**TN:** Absolutely! In fact, speaking more than one language can be very helpful. The reason God confused their speech was to get the people to do as He commanded. The people separated, left the city, and populated the whole earth. There is nothing wrong with speaking more than one language. Without people who can speak foreign languages, how would we spread the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ? If we can't understand each other, then we can't help to lead others to God.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** How did the people group together as they left the city?

**A5:** They grouped together with those who spoke the same language.

**Q5b:** Are countries meant to be made up of people who all speak the same language?

**TN:** While it would certainly make things a lot less complicated, it is not necessary. People living in the United States speak every language spoken on the planet, and we are somehow able to communicate and get things done. Language is a barrier, but it was never God's intention to make it separate us from each other. Being different isn't bad, it's just different.



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

▷ **Philippians 4:13:** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

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**BIG IDEA**

▷ We should recognize our dependence on God and be thankful for His provision.

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**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▷ Dear God, thank You for creating languages. Thank you that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Help us to depend on You, not on ourselves. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



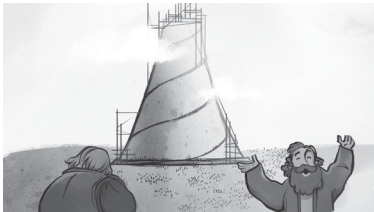
After the flood, more people were born. The people slowly journeyed together and found a wide, beautiful plain to settle on in the land of Babylon. They started making houses, raising families, growing crops, and establishing their new life together.

### SLIDE 2



As they did, they got an idea. "Let's build ourselves a big city and a huge tower that will reach up to Heaven!" This, they thought, would make them famous and would prevent them from being scattered all over the earth.

### SLIDE 3



The tower slowly went up, brick by brick. The people were discovering the power of working together, and soon they relied so much on their own strength that they forgot about God. The people felt unstoppable. They would dominate! Their power together grew stronger and stronger. They were building a mighty city. God saw the people's aggressive urge to be independent. God knew that it would only lead to sin. In His wisdom, He devised a plan to scatter the people so they would populate the entire earth.





## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



He began to confuse their language. Now, when one man said to another, "Hand me the hammer," the other man wouldn't understand. They couldn't do anything together if they didn't speak the same language.



### SLIDE 5



That was how their great plan ended, with nearly everyone speaking a different language. Those speaking the same language grouped together and dispersed throughout the earth. That is how the earth became populated with different races, nations, and languages.