

FALL

“Tower of Babel: Humans Were Self-Centered”

Series Objective: Students will learn:

- Humans broke relationship with God
- Worship to God is a sacrifice
- Noah obeyed God
- Humans were self-centered

Series Theme Verse: “Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.” 2 Chronicles 20:18 (NIV)

Lesson Objective: Students will learn the importance of making God the center of their lives.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 11:1-9

Materials Needed: Phone with “selfie” capability – maybe with a few recent “selfies” already taken

Lesson Plan:

The Story: Read the story from the class Bible, then paraphrase the story on the children’s level. While reading and retelling the story, pause often to take selfies with different students, with different backgrounds, and with different people, etc. Make sure the students are aware that the self-centered interruptions are about “self” and not about God.

Talking Points:

- How many languages do you think are spoken in the world today? (almost 7000) There are almost as many languages in the world as there are people living in Sweetwater!
- How many languages were there at the beginning of this story? (1)
- What did the people use to build their buildings? (bricks and asphalt)
- What is asphalt? (a material that hardens as it dries – like our streets and sidewalks are made of)
- What did the people decide to build? (a city and a tower)
- How tall did they want to make the tower? (as tall as Heaven)
- Why did they want their tower to be so tall? (they wanted to show everyone how powerful they were)

- Even if they could build a tower that tall, would they be as powerful as God, Who created everything? (no)
- Who were the people focused on? (themselves)
- Will people ever be as powerful as God? (no)
- Did God see the tower? (yes, God sees everything)
- How did God stop the people from building? (he confused their language)
- How did confusing their language stop them from building their tower? (it would be hard to communicate and work together if they couldn't understand each other)
- What else did God do besides confusing their language? (he scattered them all over the earth)
- What do we call that tower? (the tower of babel)

The Story Retold:

- Show the students the many selfies you have taken while you were telling the story.
- Ask students who the leader was focused on when they were taking the selfies? (Self)
- Who should the leader have been focused on? (God and teaching God's Word to the students)
- Remind students that the people building the tower were focused on themselves and not on God. God took reminded the people that they needed to trust only him and focus on God only, not themselves.
- Ask if we can be focused on ourselves and God at the same time. (no)
- Is God pleased when we are focused on ourselves all the time? (no)
- Too often we get focused on ourselves, like the selfie tower of pictures the leader took during the lesson and we forget that our focus should be on God.
- How can we spend more time thinking about God and making sure we are pleasing him? (praying, reading His word, doing things that help others)

The Story and Me:

- "Posture Practice"
- Read the Series Theme Verse a time or two.
- Divide the students into two groups. Have one group show the "posture" of the people building the Tower of Babel. (heads up, arms extended up, working to show their own power) Have the other group demonstrate the "posture" of King Jehoshaphat and people in the verse. (bowed low with their faces to the ground)
- Which posture shows submission to and focus on God? (King Jehoshaphat and the people in the verse)
- What kind of attitude do we see in the posture of the people building the tower? (trying to show off their own power)