

FALL

“Tower of Babel: Humans Relied on Self”

Series Objective: Students will learn:

- What is Sin?
- Cain and Abel vs. Seth
- Noah and the situation of the world
- Humans relied on self

Series Theme Verse: “My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.” Psalm 62:7 (NIV)

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that God’s plan for our lives is always better than our plan.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 11:1-9

Materials Needed: Recipe and ingredients for pancakes (recipe follows), electric skillet (two if possible), syrup (to go with the pancakes); a small flat stone or marble for each student (to be used with “the story and me”) to take with them after the lesson.

Lesson Plan:

The Story: Before reading the story from the Bible, divide the students into two groups. Have each group make pancakes, except group 1 will not have a recipe. In fact, give group 1 as little information/instruction as possible. Group 2 will have the ingredients, detailed instructions, and all of the necessary equipment for making pancakes. You could even put out some random ingredients or equipment that aren’t needed to confuse group 1. This could be done with any other food or project that requires a recipe or instruction to be successful.

After this experiment, read the story from the Bible, then paraphrase it for the group.

Talking Points:

- How many languages do you think are spoken in the world today? (almost 7000) How many languages were there at the beginning of this story? (1)
- What are some methods of communication today other than talking face to face? (texting, social media, etc.)?
- In verse 4, after the people settled, they decided to “make a name for themselves” and “build a tower whose top is in the heavens”. What does it

mean to make a name for themselves? (to be famous) Why was that important to them? (maybe to be more powerful than their enemies, or just to have “bragging rights”)

- Why did they want their tower to be so tall? (they wanted to show everyone how powerful they were)
- Who were they putting their trust in for their protection? (themselves)
- Who were the people focused on? (themselves)
- Why do people tend to trust in themselves rather than in God? (we inherited a sin nature in the Garden of Eden; Satan doesn't want us to depend on God)
- 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)
- How would the world be changed for us if we had no phones? Internet? iPads?
- What else did God do besides confusing their language? (he scattered them all over the earth)
- Why do you think God scattered the people all over the earth?
- What do we call that tower? (the tower of babel)

The Story Retold:

- Back to the pancake/cooking experiment:
- How did group 1 feel trying to create something edible without guidance/instructions?
- Which group's experiment turned out better?
- Why is it important to follow instructions? (more consistent results)
- Where do God's people find the best instructions for our lives? (Bible)
- If people follow Godly rules and guidelines, society benefits.

The Story and Me

- Say the verse one sentence at a time and have the students repeat each sentence after you.
- Give each student a small flat rock or marble to remind them that they never need to do anything to impress people. They have the refuge of God, a rock where no enemy can reach them.

Homemade Pancake Mix!

Ingredients

Dry pancake mix ingredients:

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar

To Make Pancakes

- 1 cup pancake mix above
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon melted butter or oil

Instructions

Dry Pancake Mix

1. Combine all ingredients. (You can easily double or triple this part)
2. Store tightly sealed in a cool dry place.

To Make Pancakes

1. Preheat & lightly grease a griddle or pan over medium to high heat.
2. Combine 1 cup of pancake mix with egg, milk & butter or oil.
3. Pour $\frac{1}{3}$ cup batter and cook until bubbles on the surface of the pancakes have popped (about 3-4 minutes). Flip and cook until the underside is light golden (another 1 – 2 minutes).

Notes

Each 1 cup of dry pancake mix will make approximately 5 pancakes.