

FALL

“Tower of Babel: Humans Wanted to be like God”

Series Objective: Students will learn:

- Consequences of sin and the role of humans
- Object of worship and sacrifice
- Noah and the judgment and justice of God
- Humans wanted to be like God

Series Theme Verse: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)

Lesson Objective: Students will learn it is futile to try to become equal with God.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 11:1-9

Materials Needed: Random supplies that students will use to build a tower; paper plates, masking tape, straws, balloons, empty paper towel rolls

Lesson Plan:

The Story: Before reading the story, divide the students into two groups. Give each group identical sets of the random supplies and challenge each group to build the tallest, strongest tower they can within a few minutes. Their tower must be able to stand on its own. Read the story from the Bible, then retell the story to 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)

- Why do you think God had a problem with what the people were trying to do? Was He afraid of what they might accomplish, or was He protecting them?
- Read Genesis 11:1-9. What light do these verses shed on the motives of the people to build a tower? (The lie of Satan was and is that we don't need God and can accomplish everything in our own strength.)
- 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)
- Why do you think God scattered the people all over the earth?
- Deep thought: How is religion like the tower of Babel? (A system of do's and don'ts that people think will make them right with God...human achievement vs. Divine Accomplishment)

The Story Retold:

- Think about the towers you made earlier.
- How strong and useful would they ever really be to anyone?
- When we use our own resources and our own ideas without dependence and guidance from God, this is how useful our efforts are to Him.

The Story and Me

- Have the verses written on whiteboard or a poster board visible in the room.
- Challenge the students to recreate the verse with emojis. Share their creations with each other.