



The Tower of Babel

Lesson Aim: To challenge children to trust God enough to follow His plan and acknowledge Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Provides

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 11:1-9

What He has done: God scattered the builders of the tower of Babel.

Key Verse: Genesis 11:4

THE WAY

Christ Connection: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Unit 6: The God Who Provides			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
27	Adam and Eve Sin, Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-6, 8-9, 12-13, 19, 21-24	God banished Adam and Eve from the garden after they disobeyed Him.	To explore trusting God's boundaries and His solution for the Fall of Man.
28	Cain and Abel, Genesis 4:2b-9, 12-16	God showed mercy and justice to Cain.	To see God's justice and mercy and to challenge children to be their brother's keeper.
29	God Saves Noah, Genesis 6:5-9, 14, 19, 22; 7:16-18, 23-24; 8:1, 6-12; 9:13-15	God provided a way to save Noah and the animals.	To see God's salvation of the faithful and destruction of evil. (Salvation Message)
30	The Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9	God scattered the builders of the tower of Babel.	To challenge children to trust God enough to follow His plan and acknowledge Him.
31	The Call of Abram, Genesis 12:1-8	God called Abram and promised to bless him.	To challenge children to trust Jesus and fully live for Him.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 1 Corinthians 3:9-23. Please join us in praying, "Lord, Your ways are higher than ours. Use us to build Your kingdom instead of our own and help the children understand the difference between the two. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Mighty Towers	Building materials which can be stacked (e.g., toy blocks, cardboard boxes, sugar cubes), tape measure
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "Search Me, O God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Trust and Obey" "Standing on the Promises" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:20	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 30 Bible Barn script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 11:1-9	Map—Ancient Mesopotamia (near modern day Iraq), Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Toy building block, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Alphabet Mix-up Cookies	Small cookies, tube of decorator icing with writing tip (or place icing in a plastic sandwich bag and snip off the very tip of the bag)
	Up to 10	Game: Four Corners of the Earth	4 sheets of paper, tape, optional: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord"
	Up to 15	Craft: Built for God	Modeling clay, cardstock or cardboard, toothpicks
	Up to 10	Discussion: Be Careful How You Build	Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	None
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Yahweh—Trust in the Lord	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord," CD player, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is the tallest thing you have ever built?

GAME: MIGHTY TOWERS

Purpose: Children will race against each other and the clock to see who can build the tallest tower.

Supplies: Building materials which can be stacked (e.g., toy blocks, cardboard boxes, sugar cubes), tape measure

Prepare: Place the building materials in the center of the play area.

Let's have a building race! Each team will try to build the tallest tower and keep it from falling over. The team with the tallest tower at the end of four minutes will be the winner.

Directions:

1. Form teams of 3-5 children.
2. On your signal, teams use the building materials to build a tower. If it falls, they may rebuild.
3. Encourage teams to keep building until they believe their tower is tall enough to win or they run out of time.
4. After four minutes, tell the teams to stop building.
5. Use the tape measure to determine which tower is the tallest.
6. If time remains, play again.

Many of us enjoy building things. God put that joy in us and He wants us to build. But many years ago, a group of people decided to build a tower that was not pleasing to God. We will learn more about it later.



The God who provides **THE WORSHIP**

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship the God who provides all we need. He is greater than everyone and everything in heaven and on earth. We will focus on Him alone and point others to His greatness as we give Him our offerings of praise, prayer, and money.



Sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" while the offering is collected. You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's greatness.



In today's story, some people tried to build a great city and tower to make themselves seem important. God wants us to not only remember He is the greatest in all things, but He also wants us to point others to His greatness, otherwise known as His glory. Read Ephesians 3:20.



Perform Bible Barn script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 6, Lesson 30.



Sing Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord."



God scattered the builders

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we discovered how God saved Noah from the flood. We learned God also saves us from punishment for our sin. Today, we will read about some people who tried to build a city and tower to make themselves seem important. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to the Tower of Babel. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **This ancient city was built on a plain in Shinar, which was in Mesopotamia.** If a map is available, point out Mesopotamia, near modern day Iraq.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 11:1-9. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 11:4.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Listen carefully as we read in Genesis 11:1-9 how God showed the builders of the city and tower of Babel that He is the greatest in all of heaven and earth.



Trusting God's plan for your life

THE WAY

At the beginning of the story, how many languages were on earth? (One.) **What did the people decide to do?** (Build a city and tower tall enough to reach the heavens.) **What were the two reasons they wanted to build it?** (To make a name for themselves, so they were not scattered.)

What did God do to stop the building of the tower? (He confused their language so they could not work together.) **Why was the city called Babel?** (Babel sounds like a Hebrew word that means "confusion." It was named after what God did to the language of the people building it.)

The builders did not acknowledge God in all their ways. What does it mean to "acknowledge God in all your ways?" (Children respond.) **To acknowledge is to give someone credit for who they are and what they have done. Have you ever taken credit for something God did through you?** (Children respond.)

Like the builders, we often want the credit for our accomplishments. Who makes our accomplishments possible? (God.) **The builders made a plan for how they would become famous. How might this story have been different if the builders had asked God about His plan, instead of following their own?** (Children respond.) **Have you ever hoped to become famous?** (Children respond.) **God is the only one who can make us famous in a way that is good and pleasing to Him. Do you think you can trust God to decide how others will know your name?** (Children respond.) **What do you think God wants from us as we build great buildings or do other amazing things?** (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Most of us want to know our life counts in an important way. Some of us may want to build great buildings or to be famous for doing great things. Encourage children to share their current and future goals. **God has given us the talents and gifts we need to do the important things He has already planned for us. God wants us to give Him the glory and credit for the great things He does through us. Thousands of years after God showed His greatness during the building of the tower of Babel, Paul prayed for us to bring glory to God, pointing others to Him through our good works.**



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

At times, it may be tempting to make choices as the builders of the tower of Babel did. Why is it more important to follow God's directions for your life than to follow your own plan? (Children respond.) **We don't know God's exact plan for our lives, but He has told us how to live a life that pleases Him. Where do we find details about that kind of life?** (The Bible.) **This week pray about this challenge: will you trust God enough to follow His plan for your life and give Him the credit for your successes?**

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a toy building block. Let it remind you to build great buildings and do great things for God, not for ourselves.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #30. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the tower of Babel. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: ALPHABET MIX-UP COOKIES

Purpose: To introduce the idea that God confused the language of the Babel builders.

Snack Suggestion: Small cookies, tube of decorator icing with writing tip (or place icing in a plastic sandwich bag and snip off the very tip of the bag)

Prepare: Pipe a different letter of the alphabet onto each cookie.

Optional: Let the children use icing to write the letters on their own cookies or on their plates.

Does anyone here speak more than one language? (Children respond.) If any of the children say yes, ask them how to say “thank you” in that language. Teach the children how to say “thank you” in other languages such as: Afrikaans - dankie, Arabic - shukran, Chinese - xie xie (pronounced *sheh sheh*), French - merci, German - danke, Hebrew - toda, Russian – spasiba (pronounced *spa-SEE-ba*), Spanish - gracias.

Directions:

1. Serve snacks and drinks.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. As you eat, encourage the children to see how many words they can form by arranging letters into words on their own plates, combining their letters with each other's letters, or sharing words that begin with the letters on their plates.

GAME: FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH

Purpose: To remember that God scattered the builders of the tower of Babel throughout the world.

Supplies: 4 sheets of paper, tape, optional: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song “Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord”

Prepare: Write North, South, East, and West each on a separate sheet of paper. Post each one in a different corner of the play area.

Optional: Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song during game.

After the great flood, God’s plan was to scatter people all over the world where their families would grow. The people built the Tower of Babel so they would not have to scatter, but God completed His plan anyway. In this game, we will scatter to the four corners of the world—North, South, East, and West.

Directions:

1. Choose a Caller.
2. The Caller stands in the middle of the room and counts aloud to ten with his or her eyes closed.
3. Children rush to stand in different corners before the Caller says, “10.”
4. With his or her eyes still closed, the Caller calls out North, South, East, or West.
5. The Caller may open his or her eyes.
6. Children in that corner are out of the game.
7. Play again until only a few remain standing in the game.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: BUILT FOR GOD

Purpose: To help children internalize the aim of the lesson and experience building something pleasing to God by building crosses from modeling clay.

Supplies: Modeling clay, cardstock or cardboard, toothpicks

Today, we learned God is above all people and things. Let's build something that is pleasing to God and honors Him. The cross is a symbol of God's love for us. Let's build a cross out of clay to show we love God and want to build things that are pleasing to Him.

Directions:

1. Give a piece of clay to each child.
2. For stability, you may wish to have the children create the cross flat on the table. Place cardstock or cardboard under the crosses if children will be taking them home before they dry.
3. Show the children how to mold pieces of the clay into brick shapes. They will need to make six bricks of the same size and one long brick.
4. Gently press together four bricks for the bottom of the cross (depending on the type of clay you are using, you can also use a dab of water to help the bricks stick to each other).
5. Place the long brick lengthwise on top of the cross bottom and gently press to secure.
6. Press the remaining two bricks into place at the top of the cross.
7. Children may use a toothpick to write a message to God on their crosses.
8. Try to keep the crosses flat until they are dry.

DISCUSSION: BE CAREFUL HOW YOU BUILD

Purpose: For children to engage in a deeper discussion about building.

Supplies: Bible

The Apostle Paul talked about another way of building. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10b-11. **What type of building is Paul talking about?** (Children respond.) **Paul is not talking about a building made out of wood or bricks. He is using the picture of the making of a building to help us understand how we should live our lives. When you build a house, what must be done first?** (A foundation.) **All buildings need a solid foundation or they will fall down. Who did Paul say is our foundation?** (Jesus.) **That means Jesus is the only one we should trust to save us from our sins and help us live lives pleasing to God. What would be a weak foundation for our lives?** (Building a life on our own greatness, on becoming famous, or on anything other than trusting Jesus.) **Remember to trust Jesus to lead your life. He is your foundation!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

GAME: THE WAVE

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Directions:

1. Assign one phrase from Proverbs 3:5-6 to each child or group.
2. Direct each child or group to quickly stand, say the assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to the thighs, and then sit down.
3. Repeat three times, saying the verses faster each time.

GAME: YAHWEH—TRUST IN THE LORD

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song “Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord,” CD player, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Display the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster. Create a hand jive or dance motions to go with the verse or plan to have the children help you create motions.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song while children sing along.
3. Add a hand jive or dance motions.
4. Sing again with the motions. Challenge the children to keep the motions going as the song goes faster and faster.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Cain and Abel: **Why was Cain upset with his brother?** (He was jealous of Abel because God accepted his offering.) **What did Cain do?** (He killed his brother.) **What did Cain ask God?** ("Am I my brother's keeper?")

Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) **How does the Bible describe Noah?** (Righteous, blameless, he walked with God.) **How did God save Noah from the flood?** (God gave Noah exact directions for how to build an ark that would keep everyone on it safe.) **What is your favorite part of this story?** (Children respond.)

Tower of Babel **After the flood, God planned to fill the world with people by scattering them. Why did the people build the Tower of Babel?** (To make a name for themselves and to not be scattered.) **What did God do to stop the building of the tower?** (He confused their language so they could not work together. The people were scattered.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)