



The Tower of Babel

Lesson Aim: To build in ways which show God's greatness instead of our own.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Provides

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 11:1-9

What He Has Done: God stopped the builders when they tried to be more powerful than Him.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Let us build."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I will always obey Your law forever and ever. I will walk about in freedom." Psalm 119:44-45a

Unit 6: The God Who Provides			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
27	Adam and Eve Disobey, Genesis 3:1-13	God gave fair punishment to Adam, Eve and the serpent.	To know God wants us to obey Him.
28	Cain and Abel, Genesis 4:2b-7a	God showed mercy and justice to Cain.	To know God wants us to give our best, to be loving, and not jealous.
29	Noah Builds an Ark, Genesis 6:5, 7-9, 14, 19, 22; 7:16-18, 23-24; 8:1, 7-12; 9:13-15	God provided a way to save Noah and the animals.	To see how Noah trusted and obeyed God's directions for the ark.
30	The Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9	God stopped the builders when they tried to be more powerful than Him.	To build in ways which show God's greatness instead of our own.
31	Abram Goes to a New Land, Genesis 12:1-8	God called Abram and promised to bless him.	To know we can trust and obey God's direction.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

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



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, sticker of a hammer, a tall building, or a building block
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Let us build."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Will Always Obey Your Law" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Blessed Are Those" "I Will Listen" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Song Suggestion: "Who Built the Ark?"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Part 2 Unit 6, Lesson 30
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Genesis 11:1-9	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 11:4 Visual: Building blocks or construction hard hat
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: The Tower of Babel	Standard-size sheet of sturdy red paper, label or white paper, pinwheel pasta, glue
		Game: Build It Higher	As many building blocks (any style) as possible, or other stackable items
		Game: What Did You Say?	None
		Snack: Building for God	Any stackable snack (cheese crackers, vanilla wafers, mini marshmallows, etc.)
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 6, Lesson 30 Color This Story: "The Tower of Babel"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Genesis 11:1-9	None
	Up to 10	Game: Scatter & Chatter	None
	Up to 10	Game: Freedom Walk	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Will Always Obey Your Law"
	Up to 10	Game: Bible Memory Verse Cheer	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about building God's kingdom or putting God first

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Let us build **THE WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I am glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a hammer, tall building, or building block. **Let this stamp or sticker remind you we can build things for God. Today's Whisper Verse is "Let us build."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Let us build."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "Let"** All fingertips point down and then move up with a slight forward movement.
- "us"** Hold index and middle finger together ("U" hand shape) and move across chest.
- "build."** Fists alternate one on top of the other to represent the concept of something being built.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Let us build," 2 Kings 6:2. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.

It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who provides for us. That means He gives us what we need. God gave the people in Babel all they needed, but they wanted to build a tower to become as high as the heavens and as great as Him. He stopped them because He wants us to build things that show others how great He is not how great we are. Today’s Whisper Verse is “Let us build.” Let’s try it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: “Let us build.” Include sign language.



As we give our offering today, we can ask God to use it to build things that show others how high and great He is. Let’s listen to God so we know what He wants us to build. Sing: “I Will Listen” while the offering is collected.



Let’s see if our friends Delbert and Lello know about the people who built the tower of Babel. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 6, Lesson 30.



No one is as high as God. No one is as great as God. Let’s sing songs to our great God, to praise Him, and tell Him how great He is! Sing: “Let Everything That Has Breath.”

Let’s give thanks now for all the things God lets us build. Let’s make Him a promise to always obey Him and build the things that show others how great He is. Sing: “I Will Always Obey Your Law” and “Blessed Are Those.”



The tower of Babel

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher,	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned Noah built an ark for God. Today, we will see what happened when people built the tower of Babel for themselves. Let's open our Bible to the first book—Genesis. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Genesis 11:4.

WATCH THE WORD: GENESIS 11:1-9

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a set of building blocks, or a construction hard hat. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- There were many people across the land
- And their language was all the same.
- Some of the people moved to Babel
- And built a tower one day.

- They said, "Let us build a tower to the heavens
- To be as high and great as the Lord."
- So, He then confused their words;
- They understood each other no more.

- They could not finish their tower
- For they could not work together well.
- The Lord wants you to build things for Him,
- Not just for yourself.



Why did the people want to build the tower of Babel? (To make a name for themselves. That means to be known as great or important.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Genesis 11:4 from the teacher's Bible.

Noah and his family built the ark to obey God. The people built the Tower of Babel to make themselves great. Which builders pleased God? (Noah and his family.) **Each time we build anything, we should build it for God. Let's say our Whisper Verse together: "Let us build."** Include sign language or hand motions.



God wants us to build His kingdom

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: THE TOWER OF BABEL

Purpose: To build something that points others to God.

Supplies: Standard-size sheet of sturdy red paper, label or white paper, pinwheel pasta, glue

Prepare: For the Tower of Babel, cut the two long sides of the sturdy red paper at a slant so the paper is wider at the bottom than it is at the top. On a label or piece of paper, print

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

Teacher Tip: Instead of pasta, use buttons, cereal, shells, squares of paper, or other materials that look like bricks or stones.

The people were building the Tower of Babel so they could be as high as the heavens and as great as God. When God confused everyone's words, He showed He only wants us to build things that show how great He is! Today, we will make a tower to help us remember what God showed everyone at the Tower of Babel.

Directions:

1. Attach printed label to the top of the tower.
2. Glue pasta or other building materials to the tower.

Craft Discussion:

- **The people wanted to build a tower to reach the heavens so they could be higher than God. Why did this make God unhappy?** (They were trying to be greater than God instead of being caring and respectful. They were not loving Him.)
- **God wants us to build things that will point others to Him. God is happy with anything you build as long as your heart is hoping to point others to Him.**
- **You can use the tower you have built to tell others the story of the Tower of Babel. That will point them to God.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: BUILD IT HIGHER

Purpose: Children enjoy communicating in one language as they build a tower together.

Supplies: Building blocks or any combination of stackable items

Directions:

1. **The people built the Tower of Babel to make themselves higher than God. God did not like that. God wants us to build things that help others and point others to God. Together, let's make a building that would point others to Him.** Guide children in making a choice together about what they want to build: house, church, school, bank, store, hospital, library, fire station, etc.
2. When you begin, have the children try building without speaking.
3. After a minute or two, allow them to talk to each other. Encourage children to work together and talk about what they are building. Discuss how hard it would have been for the people to work together if they did not understand each other.

GAME: WHAT DID YOU SAY?

Purpose: To remember God confused the language of the builders.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. The teacher whispers one of the instructions below to the child on his or her right.
"Share the saw with Sheila."
"Hand me Hannah's hammer."
"Bring Billy the blue brush."
3. That child whispers what he or she heard to the child on his or her right. If he or she isn't sure what was said, tell him or her to make their best guess.
4. Continue around the circle until the last child in the circle receives the instruction.
5. That child tells everyone what he or she heard.
6. Children will laugh as they hear how confused the instruction became as it made its way around the circle. (Typically, the whispered instruction sounds like nonsense syllables by the time it makes its way in whispers around the circle.)

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: BUILDING FOR GOD

Purpose: To remind us to build things that help others and point others to God.

Snack Suggestion: Any stackable snack (cheese crackers, vanilla wafers, mini marshmallows, etc.)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while the children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("Let us build.") **Let's say it together.**
 - **Was God pleased with what the builders were doing?** (No.)
 - **How did God stop them from finishing the tower?** (He confused their language so they could not finish building. He scattered them over the whole earth.)
 - **What does God want from us as we build great buildings or do other great things?** (God wants us to show others how great He is and to love Him in everything we do.)
 - **What kind of buildings does God want us to build?** (Those that help others and point others to God.) **What would you like to build?** (Children respond.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for _____, _____, _____, (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Thank you for coming today! Take home your "Tower of Babel" craft and share how God stopped the builders when they tried to be greater than Him.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how we should build and do great things for God.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Tower of Babel." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Will Always Obey Your Law," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: GENESIS 11:1-9

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps the children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase, acts it out with hand motions, and then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **There were many people across the land** (Spread arms wide.)
- **And their language was all the same.** (Point to mouth.)
- **Some of the people moved to Babel** (Walk in place.)
- **And built a tower one day.** (Pretend to stack blocks.)

- **They said, "Let us build a tower to the heavens** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **To be as high and great as the Lord."** (Reach as high as you can.)
- **So, He then confused their words.** (Point to mouth.)
- **They understood each other no more.** (Point to ears and shake head no.)

- **They could not finish their tower** (Pretend to stack blocks.)
- **For they could not work together well.** (Shake head no.)
- **The Lord wants you to build things for Him,** (Point to heaven.)
- **Not just for yourself.** (Point to others.)

GAME: SCATTER & CHATTER

Purpose: Children experience the confusion that comes with scattering and not understanding each other.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Divide the children into pairs. Have each pair link arms.
2. **Let's make a new language using many of our favorite sounds. What is your favorite sound?** (Children respond.)
3. **On the count of 3, I want you to make your favorite sound. But, when I put my hand in the air, I want you to be silent.**
4. **1-2-3-**Children make their favorite sounds at the same time. After a short time, raise your hand in the air until the children are silent.
5. **This time, I want you to make your favorite sound but I also want you to find and link arms with a new partner. No talking. The only sound you can make is the favorite sound you have chosen.**
6. **1-2-3-**Children make their favorite sounds and move around the room to find and link arms with a new partner. Help, as needed. When all the children have found a new partner, raise your hand in the air until the children are silent.
7. Repeat steps 5-6 several times. You may choose to let the children change the sound they make.
8. **Was it hard to find a new partner without talking?** (Children respond.) **How hard would be to build a tall tower together if no one understood each other?** (Children respond.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I will always obey Your law forever and ever. I will walk about in freedom."
Psalm 119:44-45a

GAME: FREEDOM WALK

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Will Always Obey Your Law"

Directions:

1. Stand in a circle with the children.
2. **Let's pretend we are standing in the Garden of Eden as we say our Bible Memory Verse. Then, we will walk about in freedom.**
3. **Can you say our Bible Memory Verse with me? "I will always obey Your law forever and ever. I will walk about in freedom." Psalm 119:44-45a**
4. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song while children roam freely about the room.
5. Make up motions. Be sure to walk and dance freely when you "walk about in freedom!"
6. Periodically, stop the music. Children stop where they are. Lead the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse together.

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CHEER

Purpose: Children memorize and review the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Practice the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Divide children into two groups. Each group stands on opposite ends of the play area.
3. Group 1 whispers, **"I will always obey Your law forever and ever."**
4. Group 2 whispers back, **"I will walk about in freedom."**
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 three more times, getting louder each time, until the children are using their strongest voices.
6. Have the groups switch phrases and play again.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about building God's kingdom or putting God first.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 6, Lesson 30: The Tower of Babel

PONDER! Read Genesis 11:1-9 with your family. Discuss how and why God stopped the people from completing the Tower of Babel. How can we build things that serve and help people? How can we give God credit for what we build?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, Lord, for giving us all we need to build for You. Use the things we build to help others and point them to You. Amen."

PLAY! Gather building blocks or other stackable items and take turns building a tall tower together. As you add each block, share something wonderful God has done by completing this sentence: "God is great. He _____." (e.g., Gave me friends, made me a fast runner.) It will be a tower built with praises!

Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse: Psalm 119:44-45a

"I will always obey Your law forever and ever. I will walk about in freedom."