



The Tower of Babel

Lesson Aim: To learn to point to 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 scattered the builders of the tower of Babel.

Key Verse: Genesis 11:4

THE WAY

Christ Connection: 2 Corinthians 10:17

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 3:1-6, 8-9, 12-13, 21, 23	God banished Adam and Eve from the garden after they disobeyed Him.	To know how sin came into the world.
28	Cain and Abel, Genesis 4:2b-9	God showed mercy and justice to Cain.	To know God wants our best in our offerings and in our relationships.
29	God Saves Noah, Genesis 6:5-9, 14, 19, 22; 7:16-18; 8:1, 6-12; 9:13-15	God provided a way to save Noah and the animals.	To know how and why God saves us. (Salvation Message)
30	The Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9	God scattered the builders of the tower of Babel.	To learn to point to God's greatness instead of our own.
31	The Call of Abram, 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, "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
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster,
		Christ Connection: 2 Corinthians 10:17	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Alphabet Mix-up Cookies	Treasure Treat—Toy building block, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord," CD player
	Up to 10	Game: Four Corners of the Earth	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 15	Craft: Built for God	4 sheets of paper, tape, optional: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Everyday: Trust in the Lord"
	Up to 10	Discussion: Be Careful How You Build	Modeling clay, cardstock or cardboard, toothpicks
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Bible
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Yahweh—Trust in the Lord	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.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 11:1-9.

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.



We can point to God's greatness

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.) **The builders wanted to be famous. They wanted to show their own greatness by building a city with a tower so high it reached the heavens.**

Was God pleased with what the builders were doing? (No.) **In this story, how did God show the people He is greater than everyone and everything?** (He confused their language, so they could not work together.) **What did the builders do?** (They could not understand each other, so they had to stop building. They had to scatter, just as God planned.)

They built the city and tower so they would have a place to live and not be scattered over the earth. After the flood, God's plan was to fill the earth with people. The people's plan to build was against His plan. Did God's plan work or the people's plan? (God's plan.) **God's plans always work, because He is the greatest one in heaven and earth.**

What is one of the greatest things you think God has ever done? (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

God does not want us to do things just to show how wonderful we are. He does not want us to brag about our own greatness. Thousands of years after God stopped this building project, Paul explains the only type of bragging God allows.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 2 Corinthians 10:17. **Let's find this scripture.** Read 2 Corinthians 10:17.

Give each child a building block from THE WELCOME game. I've given each of you a building block. See what you can build together. Before you add your block, acknowledge God by naming something wonderful He has done in your life. Complete this sentence out loud: "God is great. He _____." For example, "God is great. He gave me friends," or "He made me a fast runner," or "He helped me do well in school." Let's build a tower of worship together. If time allows, give the children more blocks and continue building together.

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.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 30 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

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.)