



# TOWER OF BABEL

Preschool-K • #OT6 • July 16, 2023

## Concept

God's plans are always for our good.

## Goal

Children will learn that even though man is in rebellion against Him, God is in control. They will be encouraged to be a part of God's plan.

## Passage

Genesis 11:1-9

Key Verse: "The Lord confused the language of the whole world and scattered the people over the whole earth." Genesis 11:9

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Jenga game</i></li><li>• <i>The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones</i></li></ul> <p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>CD player</i></li><li>• <i>CD of people saying the key verse in different languages</i></li></ul> <p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Clip &amp; Tell Some More Bible Stories, Lois Keffer (online copy)</i></li><li>• <i>Patterns for the tower, 1/class</i></li></ul>	<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plastic stir sticks, 100/class</li><li>• Large marshmallows, 200/class</li></ul> <p><b>Learning Activity #2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 sizes of printed trapezoid pieces with figures, 1 of each size/child</li><li>• Page printed with key verse and concept, 1/child</li><li>• Glue sticks</li><li>• Crayons, markers</li><li>• Scissors</li></ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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“A historical link between Noah and Abraham is provided in Genesis 10 and 11 in the Bible. The events in this era demonstrate how subtle the revolt against God can be. This period in God’s revelation is so important that special emphasis is needed.

*Nimrod’s Tower of Idolatry.* Nimrod was a mighty king who built six of the ancient cities of the world. Two of those cities were Nineveh and Babel, later to be known as Babylon. His ambition was to make himself a name and to establish a world empire. To accomplish this, Nimrod led the people in building a huge temple-tower, which was to be ‘a proud, eternal monument to themselves’ (Genesis 11:3, 4 LB).

The tower in Babel was apparently an astrological observatory like the ziggurats which remain today in that part of the world. Astrology is the worship, not of God, but of the sun, moon and stars. Romans 1 tells us that if a person does not worship God the Creator, his first step away from God will be worship of the creation.

The people started to build the Tower of Babel. Their motive in building the tower was ‘to reach God’ meaning to attain the position of God. Nimrod’s more specific motive was to keep mankind together under his own leadership. When the Lord observed these events, He said, ‘look! One people, and all with one language [purpose]! The way they are starting to behave, nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them’ (Genesis 11:6 MLB). This is God’s view of an indisputable historic fact: Fallen men without barriers greatly accelerate the rate of rebellion.

*A monument to mankind.* God observed the collective efforts of humans to build their own system apart from Him. To deal with the situation, God brought division through the introduction of different languages. This made it impossible for the people in Nimrod’s empire to complete the tower, leaving it incomplete as an appropriate monument to mankind apart from God.

Man’s system apart from God may look exciting because it appeals to the senses. It may also seem secure but as surely as in Babel, God will either bring division to it or it will destroy itself, whereas God’s Incredible Plan will never be stopped.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> McCallum & Hamblin, *God’s Incredible Plan*, pp. 34-35.

## Set Up

- The week before class: The teacher who is teaching the Lesson should practice using the patterns for the “clip and tell”. This is a good visual medium. If you have practiced, you will keep the children’s attention.
- Pray for the children in your class. Ask the Spirit to help you relate God's truth and love to them.

## Incorporation Lg. Group

### Activity Stations:

- **Tower Building**

**Goal:** Connect the principle that anything man builds will eventually fall.

- **Instructions:** Set out the Jenga game. See how high a tower can be built before it falls down.

- **Marshmallow Towers**

- **Instructions:** Work together using the stir sticks and marshmallows to construct a tower.

- **Story – "A Tall Tower"**

- **Instructions:** Read the story on pages 48-55 in The Jesus Storybook Bible.

## Introduction Lg. Group

### What Are They Saying?

**Instructions:** Play the tape of people saying the key verse in different languages.

Do you know what the people were saying on this tape? I couldn't figure out what anyone said. Do you think they were just pretending to speak or were they really saying something? They were all saying something. As a matter of fact they all said the same thing, "The Lord confused the language of the whole world and scattered the people over the whole earth" (Genesis 11:9). The reason we couldn't understand them was because they spoke in different languages. Have you ever met someone who spoke a language different from you? It is hard to talk to someone when you can't understand what he or she is saying.

A long, long, long time ago everyone spoke the same language. Today we are going to learn why "The Lord confused the language of the whole world and scattered the people over the whole earth."

**Instructions:** Fold Figure 1 in half on Line 1.

The Bible tells about a powerful King named Nimrod, who lived long, long ago. King Nimrod wanted to make sure everyone knew who he was. So Nimrod came up with his own plan.

**Instructions:** Cut from A to B. Cut Slit 1. Fold forward (mountain fold) on Line 2.

He told the people of the city called Babel to build a big tower. He thought that this way everyone would say that the people of Babel are the greatest people in the world! And King Nimrod is our great leader.

## Lesson Lg. Group

**Instructions:** Open the figure, and fold the left edge forward to match the right edge. Set Figure 1 up beside you.

King Nimrod hoped they would follow him and forget all about God! Does anyone remember someone else who wanted people to follow him and forget all about God? (Satan.) Just like Satan, King Nimrod did not believe that God's plans are always for our good.

**Instructions:** Fold Figure 2 in half on Line 1. Cut from A to B.

The people of Babel began to build their tower. They made bricks. One by one, they put the bricks on top of each other. But there was a problem. God was not happy about their plan to build this tower because they were beginning to believe that they didn't need God any more.

**Instructions:** Cut Slits 2 & 3. Fold forward on Line 2. Open figure, and fold the left edge forward. Attach Figures 1 & 2 by sliding Slits 1 & 2 together, as well as the two "unmarked" slits on the left side. Set the tower up beside you.

**So here is what God did:** All the people of this city spoke the same language. They had one word that meant "hello" and they had one word that meant "good-bye." They had one word for "play" and one word for "eat." They could all understand each other. They kept building the tower like King Nimrod told them to and forgot more and more about God.

But God's plan for all people is that we will be His friends and follow Him. God's plan was that people spread into all the world, but the people of Babel decided to stay right there and follow King Nimrod. God is more powerful than anyone—He can do anything. And God's plans are always for our good. God knew it would be very bad if the people all followed King Nimrod. King Nimrod's plans would not be for their good. He would not love the people like God did.

**Instructions:** Fold Figure 3 in half on Line 1. Cut from A to B. Cut Slit 4, and fold forward on Line 2. Open the figure, and fold the left edge forward. Attach Figures 2 & 3 by sliding Slits 3 & 4 together, as well as the "unmarked" slits on the left side. Stand up the completed tower.

So all at once, God made the people talk in different languages. Everyone was very confused!! They couldn't understand each other. Today, when people can't understand each other it's called "babbling," named after the people in the city of Babel. Since the people couldn't understand each other, they couldn't finish building the tower. The people moved away from each other and began to build other cities all over the world. Just as God had planned, people spread out over the world and many of them learned to follow God.

## Transition

### Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

Let's get into our small groups to talk about God's wonderful plans for us.

- Why was it a bad idea for Nimrod to be the leader?
- Why do you think God's plans are always the best?
- How does God know what's best for us?

Let's pray now and thank God for all of His plans. His most wonderful plan was that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. That way, Jesus paid for all of our sins, all our bad choices. God's plans are always for our good because He loves us and wants what is best for us. Let's pray that we will learn to follow God's plan and thank Jesus for dying on the cross for our sins.

## Transition

### Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

Let's make a craft now that will remind us that God changed the plans of King Nimrod because they were not God's plans. God's plans are always for our good!!

#### Craft – The Tower

- **Instructions:** Give each child a page with the key verse and concept and the three trapezoid pieces of the tower. Use glue sticks to glue the trapezoid pieces onto the key verse page to build the tower. As children make and color the tower, discuss with them how difficult it would be to work together to build something if you didn't speak the same language as the rest of the workers. God was very wise when He confused the people's language. He protected them from the plans of King Nimrod.

## Languages Puppet Skit

Cast: Squeaker, Mouth

Props: Hello and Good-bye tapes

*Squeaker enters*

Squeaker: Hello! How is everyone doing? Is everyone having a good time?

*Mouth enters quickly and dramatically with a noise*

Squeaker: (startled and looking Mouth over) Whoa! Who or What is this?  
(pause for audience response) Hello! (pause) HELLO!! I don't get it!

Mouth: Koh nee chee wha

Squeaker: Whoa! What did it say? (Mouth: Sow koo POH na) That's weird. I don't understand anything it's saying? Are these words? (Mouth: Tay Jambo) (to audience) What do you think? Is it saying words? Does anyone understand what it's saying? It must be talking with words from another country. (Mouth: Yad Ay)

Sometimes it's hard to understand people who use different words to say things that we say. Did you ever wonder where all these different words came from? Did someone say, "Gee, I think I'll come up with different words and a different way of saying things today" (stress) I don't think so. (Mouth: Chow) (looking at Mouth) It sure is hard to understand you. And it would be hard to work with you since we don't understand each other. (Mouth: Bon jour)

(to audience) Does anyone have an idea where all these different words came from? Right, God made them. (Mouth: KOH moosh ta ka) You'll learn more about that in class, today. Do you think it would be hard to talk to someone who doesn't talk the same way we do? (Mouth: Shalom) Do you think you can learn how to talk the way other people talk in other countries? (Mouth: Hey)

Mouth: HELLO. (Do not respond to Squeaker. Look forward)

Squeaker: (to audience) What did it say? Did it just say hello? Well I'll be. Maybe it's been saying hello all this time. (to Mouth) Hello! (pause) HELLO!  
(to audience) I don't get it.

Mouth: Adios

Squeaker: (double take and react to Mouth) What?!? (Mouth: Sigh yo nara)  
Now it's starting to talk? (Mouth: Toe Fa) I don't get it. The words sound similar but they aren't the same. Just when I thought I was making sense out of it all, it starts talking again but I still don't understand what It's saying.  
(Mouth: Chow) (to audience) Do you? (Mouth: Ya shoe)

Mouth: Dos vey dan ya (Squeaker gets more and more frustrated.)

Squeaker: I'm getting tired of this. (Mouth: Ho KOAN na) Tell you what, I'll let you get back to your class now. It doesn't look like this mouth is ever going to stop talking, (Mouth: Lay ta LOTE) so I'll just leave you alone with this talking machine. Good-bye. (Mouth: Ba EESH day)

Squeaker exits

Mouth: (looks around and says, GOOD-BYE, then exits laughing)