

The Tower of Babel

Aim:

Focus on the consequences of forgetting God's grace and concentrating on one's own achievements. Nothing to boast on our ability, but it is God's gift.

Teacher's Preparation

- Show a picture or some artwork and ask how the children would feel if someone else tried to take credit for their work.
- Have the kids do some kind of competition that is timed (race, word search) and see how they react with the results. Are they prideful or greedy? Point out and discuss how they are feeling when they win or accomplish something.
- Ask the children all the things they have and they are most proud of. Ask them from where they received it ; was it from their hard work, or from God?



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Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Student Introduction

There are many times in our lives that we are very happy and proud of the things we do. Getting good grades, making a beautiful artwork in class, or even just winning a game. We may even show off our house, clothes, or the video games we have at home. We sometimes are very quick to say "I did it!" or we are quick to show off everything that we have and take all the credit for all that we have in life. It's very easy to do and many of us do this, but when we start to look at what we do, we forget all that God has done. When we think of ourselves greater than someone else or even God, that is called pride. Pride can be harmful to us because when we are prideful, we forget to give God credit and we all know that He is the reason we have everything in our life. Just like us many times in our lives, the story we read today is about a group of people who took pride in their strengths and forgot about God. When we do this, it does not make God happy.



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Main Ideas

There was just one language during this time, so everyone one on earth spoke and understood each other very easily. The people could have used this in a good way, but instead the people wanted to make a tower up to the heavens to make a name for themselves (show off to everyone). God was not pleased that they were building the tower to glorify themselves because it is not good to boast about yourself when God is the one that gives us the strength to do everything. The glory should have been for God. God put an end to the tower building by making them to speak different languages so they couldn't communicate and scattered them all over the earth. That is why it is called the Tower of "Babel" because God changed all of their languages and they did not understand each other.

Activities

- Tower building competition (using cups or marshmallows and toothpicks)
- Have kids try to build a tower without talking to show how difficult it is to accomplish things without being able to communicate
- Have kids write down on an index card what pride means to them and then discuss what they wrote

Lesson Review

- Why is the tower called Babel?
- What did the people hope to accomplish by building the tower?
- Why is pride not a good quality in a Christian?

Values For Life

Remain humble in all things and remember that everything we have is because of God.

My Decision

Do you put your hope and trust in *God* or in something else to make you happy?
Grace of *God* is enough.

- Remain humble in everything.
- Use our talents to glorify *God* and not ourselves.

Memory Verse

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of *God*—

Ephesians 2:8

Closing Prayer

Dear *God*, help us to remember everything we have is a blessing from you. Help us not to be prideful, but to remain humble in all things. Amen