



Kindergarten-2nd

June 29-30, 2013

DATE

The Tower of Babel

LESSON TITLE

Genesis 11

WHERE TO FIND IT

We can't get to God on our own. (We need His Rescue!)

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. *If you **all** have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.*

tips

Have activities ready for kids when they arrive. Place coloring pages and crayons on the table. Set out games. Organize jump rope tournaments. Basically, use this time to facilitate kids' engagement with one another.

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents about today's story!

large group heads up

The Tower of Babel reminds us that we need God's Rescue to be close to him. There's no way to get to him other than Jesus! Focus on how this story shows us that God *wants* to be close to us. And how he sent Jesus to make that possible.



instructions

Goal: help kids both engage in retelling the story and imagine what it would have felt like to be unable to communicate

Why? We want kids to be interested and engaged in lessons, as well as walk away feeling equipped to retell the story.

Tip: During both the discussion and the activity, make sure you point the kids' attention to the fact that God sent Jesus, the Rescuer, so we could be close to him!

small group

CONNECT

1. Share your name and one word to describe the best part of your week (if you've already connected before large group, move directly to question #2).
2. Share your favorite part of today's story—or one part that surprised you.

REVIEW ACTIVITY

Ask the kids to listen carefully. They should stand if you say something TRUE and sit if you say something FALSE. If it's false, ask kids why.

1. The people decided to build a really tall wall. (F: sit; they decided to build a tower)
2. The people decided to build a really tall tower and they didn't think they needed help from God. (T: stand)
3. The people thought they could get to Heaven by themselves. (T: stand)
4. Building the tower was a great idea! (F: sit; no, it made people think they didn't need God. They thought they could get to heaven on their own)
5. If the people kept building the tower, they would have ended up hurting themselves (T: stand)
6. Because God loved the people, he stopped them from building the tower (T: stand)
7. To stop them, God sent a flood. (F: sit; God gave everybody different languages so nobody could understand each other)
8. The people didn't need a tower to get to God...they needed a Rescuer! (T: stand)

DIG DEEPER

9. Why do you think people believed they could get up to heaven without God?
10. God DOES want to be close to us! How can we be close to God? (by believing in the Rescuer, Jesus)

(Continued on the next page)

ACTIVITY

The people built a tower because they thought they did not need God and that they could get to Heaven by themselves. God stopped them by giving them all different languages so they could not understand one another. We're going to play a game to show how confusing it can be to misunderstand each other!

- **Play “telephone”:** Whisper a sentence to one kid. Let them whisper to the next kid, who whispers it to the next kid. The last kid says it out loud! Ask the first kid to repeat the original sentence. Use these sentences to review the story:
 - People built a tall tower to try to reach heaven.
 - They thought they could do it on their own, without God.
 - God could see what they were doing.
 - God stopped them by mixing up their languages.
 - God sent a Rescuer to bring people close to him.

***Pray with the kids and thank God that he sent the Rescuer so we could be close to him!**

Extra time? Play some more telephone. Or grab some blocks, Legos, Jenga, or any stackable toy in the room and build a tall tower. You can even make it a competition between small groups!

LARGE group



special notes

****BEFORE YOU BEGIN, place the foam “bricks” around the room—or hand one to several kids!**

presenter tips

Find ways to keep kids engaged by having them repeat a word or phrase, act something out, or make a face or a motion... every couple of minutes give them a way to engage verbally or kinesthetically. Double bonus - It will actually help them remember what you're saying too!

script

Hi everybody, welcome to Kids' Club! I'm so happy you're here today. Today's story is going to be all about how some people built a tower.

Remember how God rescued a guy named Noah and saved him and his family from a flood? Well, after that flood, Noah and his wife and kids were the only people on earth. But pretty soon Noah's kids started having kids...and they had kids...and they had kids...and this kept going until the world was full of people again!

Unfortunately, these people did not follow God or think they needed God at all. We're going to hear a story about how they built a huge tower—and thought they could get all the way up to Heaven on their own, without God!

INTRO GAME: BUILDING A TOWER

Before we hear today's story though, we're going to try building our own tower. Our goal is to make it as *tallllll* as we can. Now, a few of you have **foam blocks**. You guys are our builders. We are going to pretend they are bricks. If you have a block, come up and form a line (show them where to line up).

One at a time, let's stack these bricks. If you don't have a brick, just watch the tower get taller...and taller...and taller! Ready? (One by one, have the kids stack the blocks. Help them if they don't know where to put blocks. “Ooooh” and “aaaaaah” over how tall the tower is getting and how good they are at building things. When they're done, stand back and admire.)

Wow, you guys are fantastic at this! And I know some of you didn't get a chance to actually build—but I bet you could have gotten the tower even TALLER if you all had bricks. Who in here thinks they are the BEST at building towers? (Let kids respond.)



script continued

PEOPLE BUILT A TALL TOWER

Well, the people after Noah thought THEY were the best, too! And they decided that they wanted to get up to Heaven without God. They were going to do it by building a HUGE tower.

At that time, everybody in the world lived by each other. Think about that for a second! And everybody spoke the same language. It's like if everybody in the world lived in France and spoke French. Or everybody lived in Spain and spoke Spanish. So it was really easy for them to all work together.

All these people began building a tower. (Try to stack the kids' tower even taller.) The tower got higher (stack blocks) and higher (stack blocks). And pretty soon it was HUGE (**show the picture of the tower**). Maybe even higher than some clouds! (Point that out in the picture.)

They thought this *taaaaa* tower would keep them safe and show everybody how STRONG they were. They thought eventually they would reach Heaven... without any help from God.

GOD DECIDES TO STOP THE TOWER

The problem is, God knew that a strong tower could never keep people safe or happy or anything. Eventually, they would end up hurting each other and themselves. And they could NEVER reach God by doing things without him!

So guess what? God loved them so much that he decided to stop their tower-building. He knew only he could keep them safe, not a tower. And no tower could reach heaven; the only way people could get to God was through the Great Rescuer, Jesus!

PEOPLE SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

So God did something incredible to stop the tower...

Remember how the people all talked to each other and understood each other and lived by each other? Well, not for long, because one day, *God changed their languages*.

Suddenly, they couldn't understand each other's words anymore! They were still saying words, but they made no sense, like [*insert your own nonsense here—be silly in a way that fits your style*]. Did anybody understand that?! [Let kids say: no!] No we call this tower the Tower of Babel! Can you guys say "Babel?" (Let kids say it.)

And then they couldn't help each other anymore and they couldn't finish their tower! They couldn't work together anymore. They even decided to move far away from each other, which is why we now have people living all over the world.

PUTTING THE EVENTS IN CONTEXT

You know, this tower we built (point to tower)...isn't actually very tall. And you guys can probably all understand a lot of what I'm saying. So this story is kind of hard to imagine!



script continued

Let's watch a video to help us understand what it was like when people decided to build a tower—and God stopped them.

Video: Context / Babel

WE NEED A RESCUER

This story reminds us that we can't do anything to get to God. We needed God to rescue us! We can never get close to God by building a tall tower, but we CAN all be close to God—and be friends with him and even part of his *family*—by following him and Jesus, the Rescuer! ...Pretty exciting, right?

WORSHIP

But you know what the best part is? God WANTS to be close to us. He stopped the tower that could never bring people close to him. Instead, he sent the Rescuer! And now ALL of us can choose to be a part of his family!

Let's sing some songs and thank God for wanting to be close to us!

Song: Jesus Loves Me (hand motions and lyrics on screen)

Song: Come With Me (hand motions and lyrics on screen)

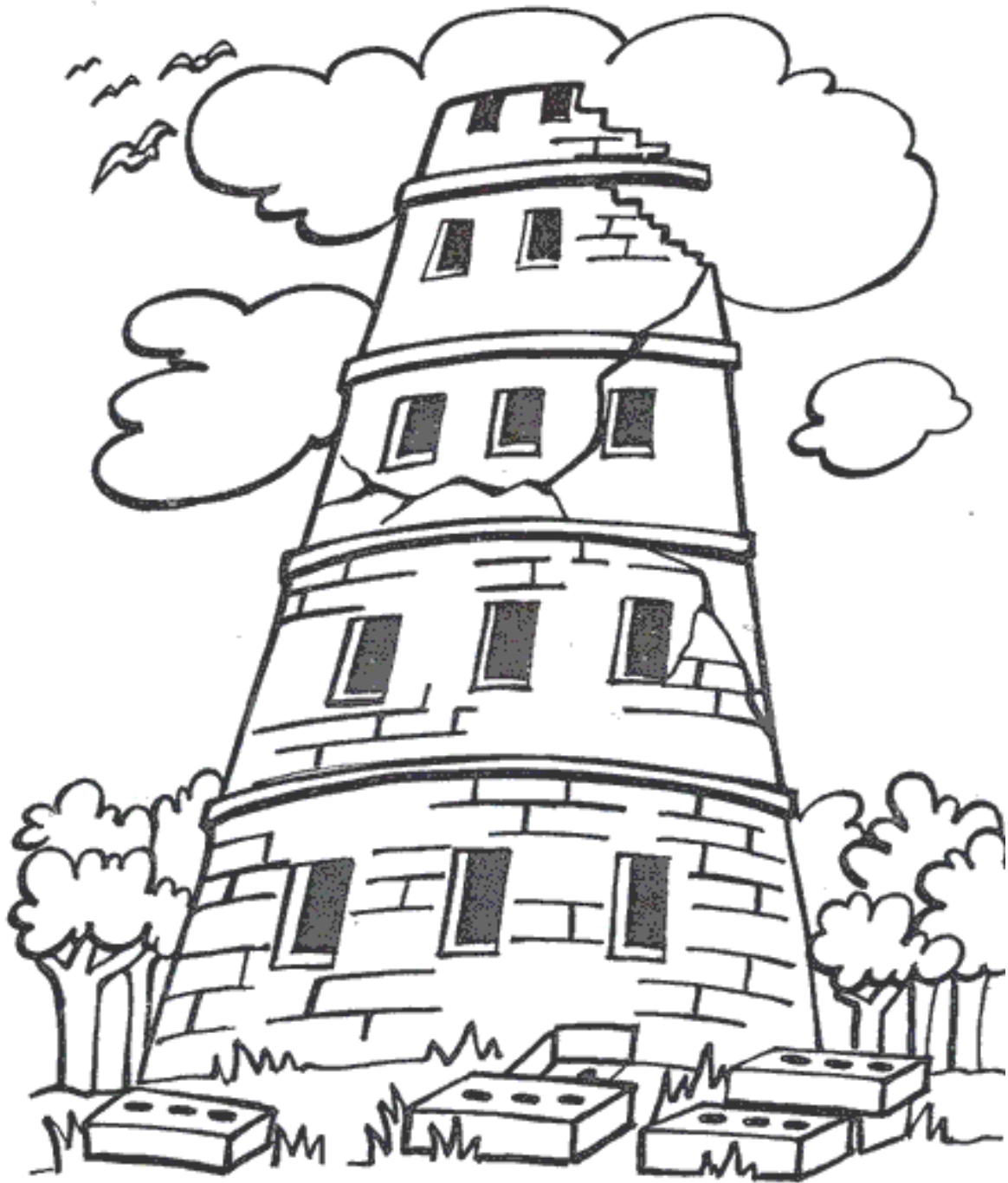
PRAY

Ask someone to come thank God for sending a Rescuer so we can be close to him.



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name



PREP needs



small group supplies

Coloring pages: Tower of Babel

large group supplies

1 red pool noodle cut in 5-inch tall “blocks”

a/v needs

1. Image: The Tower of Babel (jpeg in curriculum folder)
2. Video: Context / Babel
3. Song: Jesus Loves Me (version with lyrics and hand motions)
4. Song: Come With Me (version with lyrics and hand motions)

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about the Tower of Babel.
What is the only way we can get close to God?

parent page

In the story of the Tower of Babel, people tried to get to Heaven through a tower—with no help from God. Instead, God stopped them. He knew they would never reach him with a tower. Instead, He sent a Rescuer to earth. Now, through Jesus, we can all be close to Him. Ask your kid to tell you about it. You can also read this story together in Genesis 11 in the Bible.