



# 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

July 30-31, 2016

DATE

Movie Unit: Tower of Babel

LESSON TITLE

Genesis 11:1-9

WHERE TO FIND IT

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

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 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

Be curious! When kids enter your room, practice curiosity and learn as much as you can about them. Ask them about their families, their friends or what their favorite video games are. Ask them to tell you the best or worst part of their week. Ask questions that require open-ended answers instead of just "yes" or "no"!

## check-in/out

As kids leave, ask them about their "tower" and the verse written on it!

## large group heads up

Today, we're wrapping up our movie series with the story of the Tower of Babel! It's a fascinating account of how people didn't trust God and thought they could be close to him all on their own. None of us can reach God on our own, though. We need His help!

## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### TOWER TIME

- Divide kids into **small groups**.
- Give each group a **roll of tape** and a **package of straws** (20 long straws, and 20 short straws.)
- Tell kids to make the tallest tower they can with the materials they've been given. They'll have to work together to figure out how to put the straws and tape together to make a tower that will stand!
- Give groups about **5-10 minutes** to work.
- After the 10 minutes are up, go around the room and have everyone look at the towers to see which group has the tallest.
- Make sure to encourage everyone in their tower-making, even if it didn't stay standing!

### TALK ABOUT IT

- What made your tower tall and strong? Or, if it fell, why was it not strong?
- Have you ever tried to build something as big/tall/cool as you could make it? What was it?

**Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) understand how people tried to reach God on their own and didn't trust him, (2) recognize that we need God's help to reach him, and (3) identify ways God helps us be close to him.

**Why?** We all have pride sometimes and want to do things on our own; this story shows us that the only way to get to God is with his help!

**Tip:** Refer to the picture on the next page if you don't understand the layout of the craft.

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

\*Instead of asking questions like normal, ask kids if the following statements are **true or false**. If false, kids have to give the true answer (Don't answer it for them!)

1. True or False: People wanted to build a tower because they wanted to have a nice view of the ocean. (**False!** They wanted to build a tower up to heaven so they could become famous and reach God.)
2. True or False: When God saw what they were building, he helped them build it higher! (**False!** When God saw the tower, he caused everyone's languages to be different.)
3. True or False: God wants us to trust HIM for help. (**True!**)

\*The following questions can be asked like normal.

4. What does it mean to trust God?
5. What's the difference between doing what God wants us to do and trying to do things by ourselves?
6. What's one thing you've tried to do by yourself that you could have asked God to help you with?
7. Why do you think God wants us to trust Him? (Let kids speculate, but help them come to the conclusion that God always knows what's best for us, and he is the only one who can help us be close to him.)

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid **1 piece of blue paper** and **a set of 8 verse strips**, along with **glue sticks** and **markers**.
- Tell kids that we're making the Tower of Babel out of paper strips!

(Continued on next page.)



- Kids have to arrange the paper strips in order, with the **longest strip at the bottom and the shortest strip at the top.**
- On each strip is a section of **Romans 8:28**. Once all the strips are arranged, kids will be able to read it in order.
- Once kids have figured out which order to put their strips in, they can glue them on their paper so that it looks like a tower. (Refer to the picture below.)
- If there's time, have everyone read the verse aloud, together!



*Extra time? Play some more charades like we did in Large Group! You can split kids into pairs, or stay together as a small group and have kids act out different words or phrases relating to the story of the Tower of Babel.*

## special notes

Today's script calls for a personal example of a time you tried to do something on your own that would have been easier if you had asked for help. Or maybe you failed at something *because* you didn't ask for help!

## presenter tips

Here's a link to a video we'll be watching today!

Context / Babel:

<https://vimeo.com/44930906>

## script

### WELCOME AND INTRO

**Main Goal:** Review Connect Time and introduce the lesson.

**Notes:**

**\*Click to play intro music.**

- **Welcome:** Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. We're so glad to have you here!
- **Say:** You all made some really creative, tall towers out of straws and tape! Give yourselves a hand! (Let kids respond.)
- **Ask:** What was hard about building the tower with those materials? (Let kids respond.) Was there anything easy about it? (Let kids respond.)
- **Ask:** What if I asked you to build a tower ALL the way to the ceiling? Could you figure out a way to do it? (Let kids respond.) It would be pretty hard! What if there was a big batch of cupcakes up near the ceiling, would you try harder to build the tower then? (Let kids respond.) I know I would.
- **Ask:** Let's imagine now that we're all architects, and we're building a *real* tower. Do you think it's possible to build a tower that reaches the clouds? (Let kids respond.) OK, how about space? (Let kids respond.) Could we build a tower that reaches all the way to Heaven and God? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Nope, eventually we would have to stop building. But guess what? Some people actually tried to do it. Today we're going to learn about why they did it, and what God thought of it!

## INTRO: TOWER OF BABEL

**Main Goal:** Understand why people tried to build a tower to reach heaven, and identify how we like to do things on our own.

**Notes:**

- **Say:** Before we get to that, let's take a look at the tallest tower in the entire world.
- **(Click to show image of Burj Khalifa tower.)**
- **Say:** This is called the Burj Khalifa tower. It's in a place called Dubai, which is over on the opposite side of the world in the middle of a desert. This tower is 2,722 feet tall! That's like 100 houses stacked on top of each other!
- **Say:** Now imagine this tower reaching all the way to HEAVEN. That's what a group of people wanted to do a long time ago, when more and more people started living all around the earth.
- **Ask:** Why do you think they wanted to reach heaven? (Let kids speculate.)
- **Say:** Those are great answers! They wanted to reach heaven so that they could reach God himself. They wanted to be able to say that they reached him all on their OWN as humans, without any help at all. They thought it would make them famous!
- **Ask:** Can we do ALL things on our own? (Let kids respond.) No way! There are lots of things we can't do by ourselves. It might seem obvious to us that we can't build a tower to get to God, but we've probably all tried to do things on our own that we needed help with.
- **Say:** *(Share a personal example of something you tried to do on your own, that would have been much easier if you had asked for help.)*
- **Ask:** Have you guys ever tried to do something hard on your own, even though you probably should have asked for help? (Let kids respond.) Yep, sometimes we all want to be able to say that we did something by ourselves, without anyone helping.

## GOD RESPONDS TO THE TOWER

**Main Goal:** See what God thinks of the people's tower, and how he responds.

**Notes:**

- **Ask:** What do you think God thought of the Tower? Do you think He liked it? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Nope. God didn't like it at all. He could see that the people were trying to reach him all by themselves, and they didn't think they needed him to help! They wanted glory for themselves. That means they wanted credit for what THEY did instead of giving credit to God.
- **Ask:** Can you guys remind me of something...who made the world? (Let kids respond: God!) Who made stars and the sun and the moon? (Let kids respond: God!)

## GOD RESPONDS TO THE TOWER (Cont.)

**Main Goal:** Understand how God responded to the people's tower by confusing their languages, and play a game to help illustrate it.

**Notes:**

- **Ask:** Who made the very dirt that makes bricks that we use to make towers? (Let kids respond: God!)
- **Say:** Yep, GOD! He rules over everything in the universe, and when people thought THEY were good to enough to reach God themselves, he decided to do something. Let's watch a video to find out what happened.
- **Video: Context / Babel**
- **Ask:** So what did God do when they tried to build the tower? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yep, he caused their languages to be different! In the beginning, everyone spoke the same language. But after, they spoke different languages. That's actually why it's called the tower of BABEL, because "babel" means a confusing mix of words and sounds!
- **Say:** Let's do a little game to see what it would be like.
  - Everybody take a minute and silently make up a word in your head that means something in real life. For example, you could make up "Floop" as a word for "Dog", or "Wazoo" as a word for "Hello". (Give kids about 20 seconds to think.)
  - Okay, now everybody get a partner, and tell them your made-up word. After that, try to SHOW them what it means. **You can't use words to explain it though, only actions!** Ready? Go! (Let kids find partners and play the game for about 2 minutes.)
- **Say:** Okay, good job everybody! Was it hard to explain your word to someone when they didn't know what you were talking about? (Let kids respond.) I bet so. That's what it would have been like for people all the time!

## GOD WANTS US TO TRUST HIM

**Main Goal:** Watch a Star Wars movie clip to help understand how God wants us to trust him.

**Notes:**

- **Say:** God knew that the more we try to do things on our own, the less we'll think we need to trust him! The thing is, God wants us to trust him with our *whole hearts*. He created us, and he has amazing plans for us. But we need to rely on Him, not just ourselves.
- **Say:** We're going to watch a pretty fun movie clip, and it might not seem like it could teach us something about the Tower of Babel at first, but you'll figure it out by the end! It's from Star Wars, and in this scene, Luke Skywalker is trying to destroy the Death Star, an enemy ship. As you watch, try to figure out if Luke was able to defeat the bad guys on his own, or if he had to trust someone else's help.

## GOD WANTS US TO TRUST HIM (Cont.)

### WHY WE CAN TRUST GOD

**Main Goal:** Understand why we can trust God, using Romans 8:28 to help illustrate that he always has a plan for us.

**Notes:**

### RESPONSE TIME

**Main Goal:** Identify a specific thing that we need God's help with.

**Notes:**

- **Video: Star Wars / Han helps Luke**
- **Ask:** So was Luke able to do it all by himself? (Let kids respond.) Nope; why did he need help? (Let kids respond.) That's right, other people like Darth Vader were trying to shoot him down! But who came through at the last second? (Let kids respond.) Yep, Han Solo!

- **Say:** It's like when people tried to reach God all on their own, and God wanted them to trust him instead, just like Luke had to trust Han.
- **Say:** God wants the same thing from us, too. He loves us more than we could possibly imagine, and he has the entire world in his hands! Do you think that's a good reason to trust Him? (Let kids respond.) Me too.
- **Say:** Let's read the verse we've been learning for the whole past month. This verse tells us exactly WHY we can trust God no matter what. Because even when things seem hard, God still has a plan for us, and he always knows what's best for us.
- **Slide: Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him, and are called according to his purpose for them.**

- **Say:** Let's all take a minute and think about what we're trying to do on our own instead of trusting God to help us.
  - Maybe you are afraid to talk to someone at school, and you don't know what to say.
  - Maybe you're feeling really sad about something, and instead of talking to God about it, you'd rather just keep it to yourself.
  - Or maybe there's just something hard or scary that you want to do, but you're afraid to try it or ask God's help with it.
- **Say:** Go ahead and close your eyes, and decide what that thing is. (Give kids 10-20 seconds of silence.) Okay, everybody open your eyes! Let's pray together and trust God to help us with these things.
- **Pray:** God, you always know what's best for us. Please help us trust you and ask you for help when we need it. Help us to be close to you right where we are. Amen!



## RESPONSE TIME (Cont.)

### Notes:

- **Say:** When we accept God's help with things that are hard, that makes us closer to him! We don't have to build a tower to heaven, we can be close to Him right where we are. God ALWAYS makes everything work together for our good, so we can ALWAYS trust him no matter what.

## WRAP UP AND WORSHIP

**Main Goal:** Close the lesson with prayer and worship.

- **Set up worship:** We're going to sing a song about how God is everything we need, and all our hope is in him. After that we'll sing about how love ALWAYS beats fear, no matter what!
- **Music Video: All Our Hope**
- **Music Video: Love Beats Fear**

# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

**Per small group:** 2 rolls of scotch tape (reused), One set of 20 straws, One set of 20 ½ straws

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## small group supplies

**Per group:** Bible, markers, glue sticks

**Per kid:** 1 piece of blue construction paper, 8 verse strips, each in a different color: (Each strip has a different section of Romans 8:28 (each strip will need to be cut, pages 11-18))

- Romans 8:28
- And we know
- that God causes
- everything to work
- together for the good
- of those who love Him,
- and are called according
- to his purpose for them.

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## large group supplies

**Per Group:** Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Summer Series Movie Unit Intro loop (KC/SM media videos songs>slides>summer series slides>movies)
2. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
3. Image: Burj khalifa tower
4. Video: Context / Babel (<https://vimeo.com/44930906>)
5. Video: Star Wars / Han helps Luke (KC/SM media videos songs>videos>movie clips)
6. Slide: Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him, and are called according to his purpose for them.
7. Music Video: All Our Hope (<https://vimeo.com/99668247>)
8. Music Video: Love Beats Fear (<https://vimeo.com/113716523>)

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## connect questions

Tell me about the Tower of Babel.  
Why does God want us to ask for his help?



















