

Adventures with GOD!

THE TOWER OF BABEL (B.1.FALL.13)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 11:1-9
Key Verse	Isaiah 42:8
Key Concept	God wants me to give him all the honor and glory because there is only one true God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain what the people wanted to do 2. Tell why the tower was not pleasing to God 3. Say the Bible verse by memory

LIFE APPLICATION

The biggest problem that humanity has had from the beginning is the desire to be like God. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve wanted to know everything God knew. They wanted to be like God. After the flood, the earth was filled with people and they also wanted to be like God. They even tried to build a tall tower so that they would have special recognition, and be like God. Many times we do the same thing, but in less obvious ways. The children have to understand how dangerous it is to try and take God's place. God is the only one true God and there is no other.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	1 minute
Review	Illustrations, Bibles, pencils, paper	10 minutes
Game	Paper or poster board, "blocks", tape	15 minutes
Bible Story	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Activity	Blocks, paper, glue, crayons	5 minutes
Conclusion	Snack, musical instruments, verse	10 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this story? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Review: As you've come to the end of the trimester it would be good to spend some time reviewing everything you've talked about. Use illustrations, puppets, etc. to review verses, songs, tell different parts of the story of Noah. It would be good to have some friendly competition, for example make a big windy path on the floor. Divide the kids into 2 or 3 teams. Invite a child from each team to come to the start of the path. Taking turns, have them answer questions about the story of Noah. If they answer correctly they can take one step forward in the path (they can ask their teammates for help). If they answer incorrectly they have to take a step back, or at least stay put and not advance. Make up the rules and have the questions ready ahead of time.

Game: In advance, find some cardboard boxes. The idea of this game is that each team takes a corner of the room and the boxes are in the center. When you say, "go" a representative from each team has to come to the center of the room and grab a box to take back to the corner. Then when the person sets the box down in the corner, another person from the team goes and takes another box and brings it back to the corner, putting it on top of the box that's already there. The goal is to make a tower without it falling down. They need to continue until all the boxes in the middle are gone. To make the game more interesting, make the rule that the children can only get a box when they answer a question correctly or say one of the

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memory verses. The team with the highest tower wins. You can play this game a number of times if you have time in the class.

Bible Story: Open the Bible and again share why this book is so important. Ask them how we should treat our Bibles and why it's important to read them regularly, not just during our class. Make sure you have read the story and have prepared ahead of time. The reality is that since the beginning in the Garden of Eden, humans have tried to be like God. That's how it was during the time of the tower of Babel. Use the illustration from the first class to show that lots of time had gone by. Many, many years had passed by since the flood and now there are many people living on the earth again. As we saw in the first lesson, with the passing of time people forgot about God. They wanted to be God and they wanted the glory and honor that only God deserves. Here are some of the most important points in the story to emphasize:

- The people on earth only spoke one language
- They lived in a valley in Babylonia
- They learned to build with bricks (show different types of bricks if you can)
- They felt very important because they knew how to make bricks
- They became very proud and decided to construct a city and a tower that would reach the sky.
- God became angry with humans because God knew what was in their hearts.
- God confused the languages of the people and it became impossible for them to continue building the tower.
- When they couldn't communicate with each other, they decided to leave the big group and form smaller groups with people they could understand
- They never accomplished their plan to make a tower that reached the heavens, but God's plans were fulfilled, because now the people had spread farther over the earth and not just one place was filled with people anymore, but many places.

Activity: Make sure to get some pieces of bricks, before the class. Help them to write on pieces of paper the Bible verse for today and glue it on to the piece of brick. If it's not possible to get bricks, let them color bricks on the paper and then write the verse on it. Help them to memorize the verse using some sort of song, actions, or game.

Conclusion: It is the end of the trimester, so it would be good, with the help of the parents to have a special snack to celebrate. You can use this time to sing songs that talk about the greatness, glory and power of God. Close your time together praying and asking God to help you not to get too proud or conceited. With your own words recognize that God is number one.

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Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

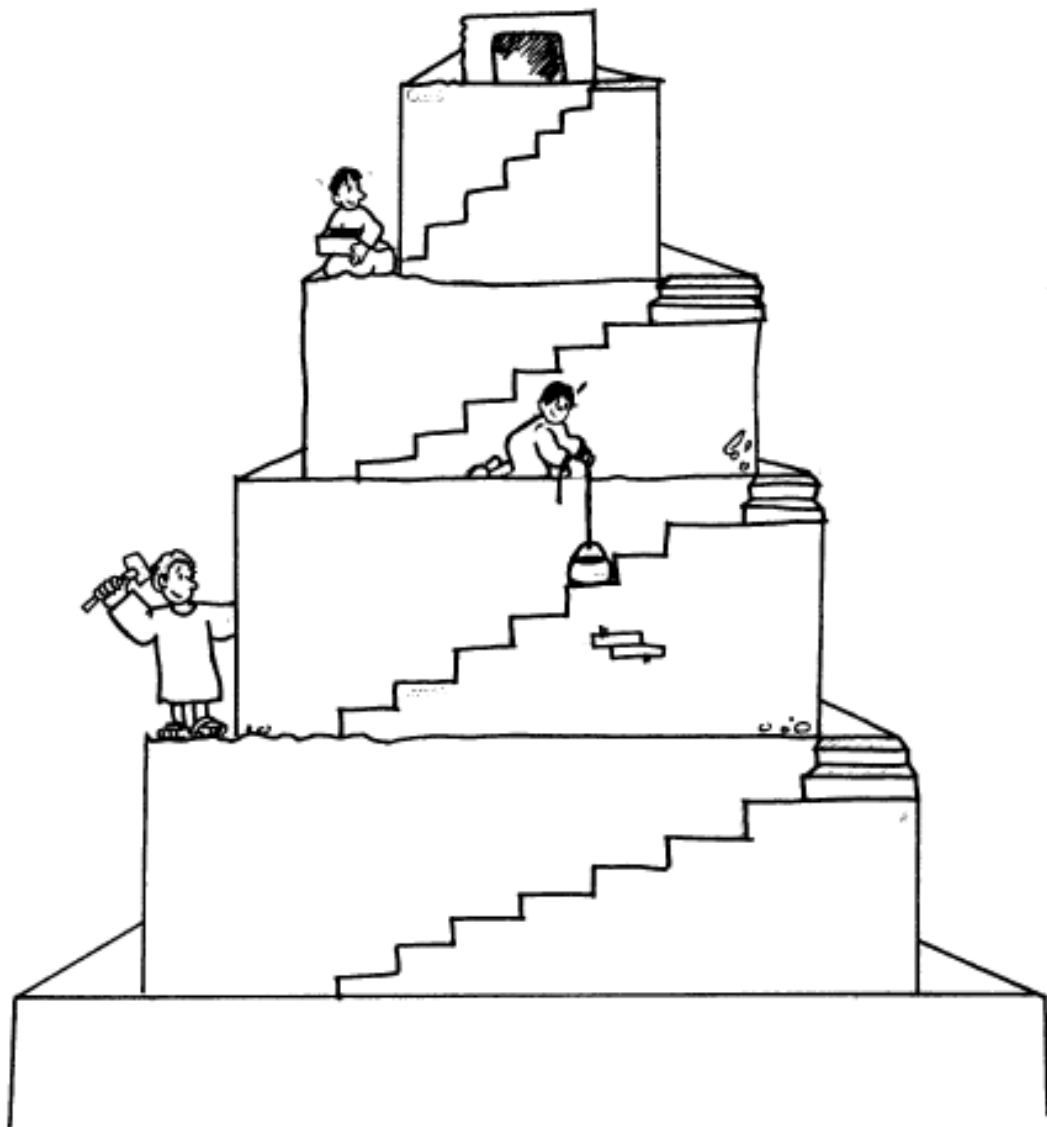
Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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ILLUSTRATION

The tower of Babel

Include Bible Verse Isaiah 42:8



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ILLUSTRATION

When the people understand



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ILLUSTRATION

When the people don't understand

