

October 6, 2019

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Towel of Babel*

Lesson Objective:

In today's story we take a look at the Tower of Babel. The revelry of humanity prior to the Flood is reminiscent in our story of Babel. Pride, sin, and evil have tainted God's greatest Creation: Humanity. When God created humanity in the Garden, we were created for communion and reliance upon God. But with the corruption of sin, each person looks to themselves for strength, sole authority, and autonomy. God reminds us in this story that He alone is all-powerful, He alone is to be praised, and we are to depend on Him. Amazingly, and only in a redeeming way, can God take the story of Babel and turn it around. One day nations, peoples, and tribes, who all speak different languages, will gather together and confess what should have been confessed in Genesis 11, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God" (Revelation 19:1).

Teaching Points:

- God knows everything.
- God is all-powerful.
- Man wants to be powerful and in charge.
- Man wants to make himself great.
- God is greater and He alone is worthy of praise and glory.
- God is sovereign.

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Story: *Vos Child's Story Bible*, Pages 17-18; *The Gospel Story Bible*, Pages 14-15;
Jesus Storybook Bible, Pages 48-55; *The Beginners Bible*, Pages 36-40.

Scripture Memory for October: Genesis 15:1 (ESV)

Fear not Abram (*wag index finger signaling "no"*)

I am (*point upwards*)

Your shield (*hold forearm out like it has a shield on it*)

Your reward (*rub index and middle finger with thumb indicating money*)

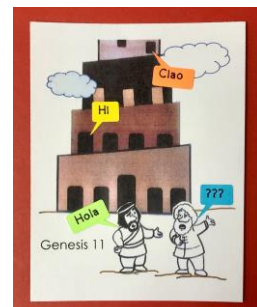
Shall be very great (*stretch arms out to your side*)

Craft: Towel of Babel

Supplies: Cardstock tower, thought bubbles, glue, crayons/markers

Instructions: 1. Glue thought bubbles on tower and next to men (as if speaking).
2. Color as desired.

If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet



Story

Transition

Boys and girls, last week we learned that it took Noah over a hundred years to build a big boat called an ark. Well today we learn about a group of people that decided to build something too. Except this time, they did not rely on God to help them. In fact, they wanted to do something incredibly sinful. Let's find out more in our story...

Life After the Flood

The Bible tells us that after the Flood, Noah and his family settled down and began to live their new life. Noah had three sons. Their names were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The Bible tells us, "From these families came all the nations who spread across the earth after the flood." Noah's three sons had children, and their children had children, and then their children had children until the whole Earth had lots of people living on it.

This was part of God's design. Remember God told Adam and Eve, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth (Genesis 1:28-29)." So, Noah and his children, and their children, and then their children were doing exactly what God had told them to do.

Villages and towns popped up everywhere. Soon those villages and towns became bigger as the Earth was filled with more people. Some towns got bigger and bigger and eventually became cities.

Let's Build!

The Bible tells us that during this time the whole world spoke one language. That means there were not a lot of languages like we have today like Spanish, French, Japanese, Russian, or Kenyan. No, only one language that was spoken and everyone understood each other!

As the Earth continued to fill up with people, one group of people decided to move east and they settled in a nice flat piece of land. They called this place Shinar.

The people that settled in Shinar loved living there. They were very proud of the place they discovered and wanted it to be the absolute best place on Earth to live. The people in Shinar thought they were the best people too. So, the people in Shinar said to one another, "Let's make a lot of bricks and build for ourselves a city and a tower. And let's make the top of the tower so high it will reach into the sky!" They devised a plan to make bricks and use tar, which is like a very sticky glue (and what Noah used to build the ark), instead of stones and mortar (or something like concrete).

The plan was for some people to find the clay and make the bricks, others would take the bricks and bake them in ovens to make them hard, and then others would stack the bricks.

The people in Shinar had one goal in mind, and the Bible tells us what it is: "We will become famous. If we do this, we can stay here forever and never have to move again!" The people of Shinar were proud; this means that they did not think they needed God. They thought they were all-powerful and in charge. Not only did the people in Shinar want to be all-powerful, they wanted everyone to love them and praise them for being mighty and strong. Their attitude was like that of the Snake in the Garden; the people of Shinar wanted to be in charge and get all the glory, and not look to God and give Him the glory. The people in Shinar had forgotten about God.

God watched all of this. He knew the hearts of the people of Shinar. Their pride and desire to be praised was sinful. God knew about their plan to build a big tower that would reach into the sky. So, God said, "Now, these people are united. They all speak the same language. This is only the beginning of what they will do. They will be able to do

anything they want. Come, let us go down and confuse their language. Then they will not be able to understand each other.” The people of Shinar would continue to forget about God because they would only look to themselves and do things they wanted to do. God confused their language. This meant God made it so small groups of people spoke a different language than another groups. We could imagine that the brick makers spoke a different language than the brick bakers, and then the brick stackers had a different language too! And the construction workers and people building the tower did not understand each other or anyone who made the bricks. It was all so confusing! No one understood what the other group was saying.

In that moment the building of the tower stopped. No more bricks were made. The Bible tells us that the place where this happened was no longer called Shinar, but Babel. It was called that because the Lord caused confusion by giving all the people different languages. And because they could not understand each other any longer, the people of Shinar split up and moved in different directions. God had scattered them all over the face of the earth, just as He had planned.

The people of Shinar were proud, thought they should be in charge, and thought everyone would praise them. Their pride made them not depend or remember God. God alone is all-powerful. Only He could make people have different languages! We must remember that we need God, we cannot do anything on our own. Only God is all-powerful – this means He doesn’t need help! This also means that God alone gets all the praise and no one else. God is greater, mightier, and stronger than anyone or anything else!

Questions for Review with Younger Children

Have children answer “yes” or “no.”

1. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Yes)
2. Noah’s sons had no children. It was just them on Earth. (No! They had kids who had kids who had more kids.)
3. There was only one language on the whole Earth. (Yes)
4. A group of people decided to build a city and tower in Shinar. (Yes)
5. The people of Shinar were humble and nice people. (No! They were proud people.)
6. The people of Shinar wanted to build a treehouse to the sky. (No! They wanted to build a tower.)
7. God saw the people of Shinar’s pride and desire to be famous and decided to confuse them. (Yes)
8. God made different people in Shinar speak different languages. No one could understand each other. (Yes)
9. God alone is all-powerful and worthy of praise. (Yes)