



TOWER OF BABEL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9

FOCUS VERSES: Jeremiah 10:6; Psalm 86:8-10; John 14:6

Summary: God instructed people to fill the Earth. Instead, they chose to gather in one spot and build a city, including a great tower so that they could make a name for themselves. God protected them from their wrong desires by confusing their language. They couldn't understand each other and stopped trying to build the city. God scattered the people throughout the earth.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*By Him all things were created, in heaven
and on earth...all things were created
through Him and for Him.*

(COLOSSIANS 1:16)



**No one is
greater than God.**

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



WHO IS GREATER THAN GOD?

No one will ever be greater than God. Because He is the Creator, He is in charge of all things.



IS THERE A WAY FOR US TO GET TO GOD?

Because our sin separates us from God, believing in Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with Him.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: HELPING KIDS BELIEVE

There are key elements in Brite that help kids grow in understanding the Bible so they can believe in Jesus.

- **God's Big Story.** Kids need to understand that individual Bible stories are pieces of one bigger story. God's story of creation, the fall, redemption and restoration helps kids develop a worldview that is consistent with reality.
- **He/We/Me Questions.** These questions help kids discover that every passage can teach us something about who God is and what He wants for His people. Kids can also begin to listen to the Holy Spirit to determine what God is inviting them to do in response to His Word.
- **Point to Jesus.** Kids need to understand that the whole Bible points to Jesus. Don't miss opportunities each week to remind kids of the Gospel and what Jesus has done for them.
- **Use the Bible.** As you teach, hold a Bible in your hand to reinforce where truth comes from. Include times for kids to physically touch Bibles and practice looking up verses. You'll be surprised how much they love this!

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: IS JESUS REALLY THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN?

Almost half of American adults believe that you can work your way to heaven.* Most people, even when we know Jesus, default to a works-based approach to our faith. Combine this with the plurality of religious beliefs kids are exposed to, and it is likely that kids can be confused about salvation. In today's lesson, kids will learn that God made a way for us to be with Him through Jesus. There may be kids in your group who believe that everyone goes to heaven. Some may believe that all religions are the same. Encourage kids to talk about what they have heard. Gently correct theology while being sensitive that these conversations may be very personal if kids have loved ones who believe different things. Avoid sounding judgmental by pointing to Scripture and being cautious with broad statements. Remind kids that only God knows individuals' hearts and that He gives us the big job of sharing His truth with others.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Creator: the One who made everything

Sin: anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, table, 8 red plastic cups, 8 blue plastic cups, 2 blindfolds

2**FIND IT IN
THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides

3**BIBLE
TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****TOWER OF BABEL
(GENESIS 11:1-9)**

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, 5 large cardboard boxes, permanent marker dollar bill, flashlight, remote control

4**REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

5**LARGE GROUP
WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Say: Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. Let's start with a fun challenge.

Blindfold two volunteers and have them stand behind the table. Give one an upside-down red cup and the other an upside-down blue cup. Using only one hand, each player must stack their cup on top of the matching color cups, collecting them into a single sleeve as they go. The first player to stack all their cups wins!

Say: In the game, the blindfold really made it difficult to build a tower of cups. In today's Bible passage, God's people also had difficulty building a tower. God made it difficult on purpose—let's find out why!

SUPPLIES:

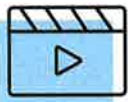
Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, table, 8 red plastic cups, 8 blue plastic cups, 2 blindfolds

PREP:

Place the table in the front of your space. Scatter seven red cups upside down on one side of the table and seven blue cups upside down on the other side.

LEADER TIP:

Place blindfolds on the players before scattering the cups to increase the difficulty.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: Those fly balls really soared up high! I don't know how those players could possibly see which ones to catch.

Discuss: What is the highest thing you've ever seen in person?

Say: Today's Bible story is about people who tried to build something really high to prove their own greatness. Instead, they learned today's Brite Idea: No one is greater than God.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



Who is greater than God?



Is there a way for us to get to God?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE



Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching image: God's Creation.

Say: We started this month by about creation and that God created everything!

Show teaching illustration: Adam and Eve.

Say: Two weeks ago we studied Adam and Eve and discovered together that we are all wonderfully made.

Show teaching illustration: Adam and Eve Eating the Fruit.

Say: Last week we learned about how God is holy, but people sin.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible.

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Genesis. Genesis is the 1st book of the Bible and found in the Old Testament.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline.

Say: This story falls in the "Beginning" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened before there were lots of nations in the world!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme.

Say: This month we are focusing on the truth that God is the Creator.

Say: Today we are learning that people may try to gain power, but no one is more powerful than God.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Genesis. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Genesis 11:1-9).

Bible TEACHING

TOWER OF BABEL GENESIS 11:1-9



PRAY: God, Your ways are the best way and no one is greater than You! May we see in Your Word today that Your plans always win and our best hope is found in following Jesus. Amen.

Place the box with nothing written on the side in front of your space. This will be the first box of your tower. Have the other boxes nearby, ready to be stacked.

Say: The world did not get better after Adam and Eve sinned. The wickedness grew greater and greater, to the point that God sent a massive flood, destroying the Earth and all of the people except for one family.

Invite a volunteer to stack the "wickedness grew" cardboard box on the first box. Have the volunteer read the words on the box for the group.

Say: God instructed Noah to build an ark and God used the ark to protect Noah's family and many animals. After the flood, God told His people to multiply, spread out and fill the whole earth.

Say: At this time, everyone on Earth spoke the same language. Instead of spreading out, many gathered together in one area.

Invite a volunteer to stack the "gathered together" cardboard box on the stack of boxes. Have the volunteer read the words on the box for the group.

Read Genesis 11:4 directly from the Bible: *Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."*

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, 5 large cardboard boxes, permanent marker, dollar bill, flashlight, remote control

PREP:

Write the following phrases on the side of four boxes: "wickedness grew," "gathered together," "make a tower," and "their way." Place the dollar bill, flashlight and remote control inside the fifth box with no writing on the side.

LEADER TIP:

Use bigger boxes for a more dramatic effect.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Invite a volunteer to stack the "make a tower" cardboard box on the stack of boxes. Have the volunteer read the words on the box for the group.

Show teaching illustration: The Tower of Babel

Say: The people had made a grand plan, but it wasn't God's plan. They were focused on making sure other people noticed them by doing things their way instead of God's way.

Invite a volunteer to stack the "their way" cardboard box on the stack of boxes. Have the volunteer read the words on the box for the group.

Say: God knew all of the people working together to try to live life their own way was not good. He saved them from themselves.

Say: God confused their language. All of a sudden, everyone was speaking a different language and no one could understand each other. It was impossible for them to work together to build a tower. God scattered them all over the world, just like He had told them to do in the first place.

Show teaching illustration: People Scattered

Scatter the boxes around the front of your space.

Say: The place was called Babel, and it is remembered as the place where God confused languages. The people believed the city would be a symbol of their own greatness, but instead God proved He is the greatest of all! Still today people try to achieve greatness in lots of wrong ways.

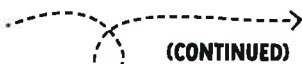
Pick up the box with no writing, open the top and pull out the dollar bill.

Say: Some people believe if they get piles of money that will make them great.

Pull the flashlight out of the box, turn it on and shine it on yourself.

Say: Others believe if they live in the spotlight and get really famous and popular that will make them great.

Pull the remote control out of the box.

 (CONTINUED)

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: Some believe if they can get big, important jobs so that they can control other people, that is how they will make themselves great. But everyone should learn the important lesson the people of Babel had to learn—no one is greater than God.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God wants a relationship with His people, but it has to be on His terms, not ours. No one is greater than Him. Because He is great and holy, our sin separates us from Him. We can't do anything on our own to fix that. He has given us a path to a relationship with Him that is based on His grace and forgiveness, not our hard work. Even if we are famous and the whole world knows who we are, it doesn't matter if we don't know Jesus.

Read John 14:6 directly from the Bible: *Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Say: We can only have a relationship with God when we turn from our sin and trust in Jesus as our Savior.



Review



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

INSTRUCTIONS: Have kids stand up. Kids will show their answer by holding up the corresponding number of fingers. Whoever shows the correct answer remains standing. Whoever missed it sits down.

1. What happened after Adam and Eve?

1. The world grew kinder and kinder.
- 2. Wickedness grew greater and greater.**

2. God wanted people to multiply and spread out across the earth. What did they do?

1. They spread out.
- 2. They gathered together.**

3. What did the people plan to do to show off their greatness?

- 1. Build a tower**
2. Film a movie

4. What happened when God confused the people's language?

- 1. People spread across the earth, just as He planned.**
2. The people found interpreters.

5. Who is greater than God?

1. Foreign gods
- 2. No one**

No one will ever be greater than God. Because He is the Creator, He is in charge of all things.

6. Is there a way for us to get to God?

- 1. Jesus is the only way.**
2. There are many ways to get to God.

Because our sin separates us from God, believing in Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with Him.



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer



Who is greater than God?

No one will ever be greater than God. Because He is the Creator, He is in charge of all things.

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer



Is there a way for us to get to God?

Because our sin separates us from God, believing in Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with Him.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

By Him all things were created...all things were created through Him and for Him.

(COLOSSIANS 1:16-17)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, no one is greater than You! Through Jesus, You made a way for us to know You. This week, help us live with thankful hearts, always remembering Your greatness and giving You the praise You deserve each day. Amen.