



# People Build a Tower at Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

First- and second-graders can be worriers. They worry about school. They worry about their parents picking them up after the church service is over. They're concerned their needs will not be met. And sometimes that can lend itself to a selfishness, causing kids to put themselves first. Help them discover that God has promised to meet all our needs. Help them see that God is all-powerful; he has the power to provide everything a human being could ever need. Use this lesson to cultivate a sense of thankfulness as you show kids that we can put God first because he'll always take care of our needs.



► **Bible Point**  
We put God first.

**Key Verse**  
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart"  
(Deuteronomy 6:5).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will put God first.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Listen and Follow</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game, and learn about God's instructions in the Key Verse.	Bible	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>The Tower of Babel</b> <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Learn about the tower of Babel as it's described in Genesis 11:1-9, and build a tower.	Bible, craft sticks, glue <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline, "Tower of Babel" poster, "The Tower of Babel" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

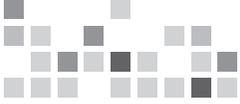
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Building Love</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn about God's love by coloring towers and "climbing" towers.	My Bible Fun, crayons	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	<b>Mighty God</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Show their love for God through song and praise.	Bible, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.





## Listen and Follow Supplies

Bible

# 1

## GETTING STARTED

# Listen and Follow

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather kids together. Then invite one child to help you.

Say: **I'm going to give [name] some instructions. I'll ask [him or her] to do two things in a row. Then we'll see if [he or she] can do what I instructed [him or her] to do.**

Give simple two-step instructions such as the following:

- **Stand on one foot and say ► "WE PUT GOD FIRST."**
- **Touch your head and close your eyes.**
- **Touch your nose and say "I love God."**
- **Put one hand on your knee and turn around once.**
- **Sit on your hands and say "God is good."**

Allow the child to complete the instructions, and then assign each child a partner.

Say: **Now try it with your partner. Choose who will be the first person to give an instruction. Please make it something you can really do, not something silly or dangerous. You can use some of the instructions we just used if you'd like.**

After a short time, tell partners to switch roles. After a minute or two, gather the children in a circle again.

Say: **We listened to our partners in this activity so we could do what they said. God also tells us what he wants us to do, but we have to learn how to hear what he's saying to us.**

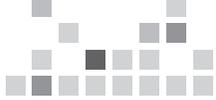
Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6:5, and show kids the passage. Say: **One way God speaks to us is through his Word, the Bible. Our Key Verse, Deuteronomy 6:5, gives us an instruction from God. Listen to what it says.** Read aloud the Key Verse: **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart" (Deuteronomy 6:5). That just means, "Love God with your whole heart."** Have kids say the adapted Key Verse with you.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

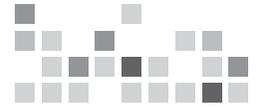
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways God gives us instructions?**
- **What can we do to make sure we hear his instructions?**
- **How will listening to God help us put him first?**



Say: **Today we'll hear about some people who didn't listen to God or follow his instructions. They thought that they didn't need God. They decided to make their own plans instead. We know that God loves us and he wants us to love him back. So**  
▶ **WE PUT GOD FIRST.**



**2**

**BIBLE  
EXPLORATION**

# The Tower of Babel

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 11:1-9, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we'll learn about putting God first.** Show the Bible Timeline and point out the "Tower of Babel" section. Say: **The verses we'll read today are about the tower of Babel.**

**A long time ago, after God rescued them from the flood, God told Noah and his family he wanted them to fill the whole earth with people. So they scattered out all over the land and started their own families in faraway places.**

**Let's scatter just as Noah and his family did. You may sit wherever you like in the room, but be very quiet so you can hear.** Have the children go to different areas of the room and sit quietly as they listen.

Say: **But after a while the people decided they didn't want to be scattered all over the earth. They liked to be together. Let's get back together just as they did.** Have the children quietly gather in a group and sit down.

Say: **The people decided that they knew more than God, so they thought they could do whatever they wanted. At that time, everyone in the whole world spoke the same language. Where you live, most people probably speak the same language, but that's not true throughout the whole world—there are many different languages now.** Let kids share words they know in other languages.

Say: **So the people found a very flat part of the country and decided to build a big city there.** Hold up the "Tower of Babel" poster. Then place it on the ground and have kids gather around it.

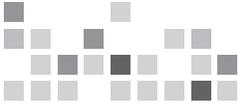
Say: **There were no rocks to build with or trees to make boards out of, so they decided to build their city out of bricks. They made huge piles of bricks.**

Ask the children to pretend to make bricks along with you, acting out each step. Say: **First we need to go to the river to get some water. Don't forget your water jugs!** Pause. **We'll balance them on our heads when we walk to the river and back.** Pause. **Now let's cut some grass or straw. We'll use a big cutting tool that's like a knife with a long handle**

## The Tower of Babel Supplies

- Bible
- craft sticks
- glue
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline
- "Tower of Babel" poster
- "The Tower of Babel" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





and swing it back and forth. Pause. **Now we'll gather up the grass or straw from the ground.** Pause.

Say: **Now we need to dig a big hole where we can mix it all up.** Pause. **Let's put in some dirt, add some water, and stir it with a long stick to make mud.** Pause. **Now let's throw in some grass or straw and mix it all together.** Pause. **When it's mixed well, we can scoop some out of the hole with a bucket and pour it into a mold or a box shaped like a brick.** Pause. **Now we'll put it in the hot oven until it gets dry and hard.** Pause. Remind the children that they'd need to make thousands of bricks to build a whole city.

Show kids the craft sticks. Say: **Let's pretend these are our bricks after they dried in the sun.**

**Now we'll use lots of tar for mortar. Mortar is spread like thick glue between the bricks to hold them together.** Pause. **Nowadays we use cement for mortar. Tar is the black, sticky stuff that you sometimes find on paved roads.** Show kids the glue. **This will be our mortar.**

**The people decided that they would use their bricks to build a tall tower in the city, with a top that would reach the sky.** Show kids "The Tower of Babel" poster from the Big Bible Poster Pack. Ask the children to imagine that they're building a tall tower out of bricks, using the craft sticks to create a bottom layer and then spreading the glue onto the top edges of the craft sticks to add a second layer. Allow time for kids to work together to build a small tower with the craft sticks and glue.

Say: **The leaders of the people wanted this tower to be a meeting place for everyone so they wouldn't be so scattered from one another.**

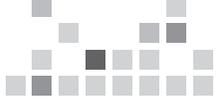
**The people were disobeying God when they built the tower. God wanted them to trust in him and scatter out all over the land, but they decided that they didn't need God. They wanted to stay together in their city and build a tower to show how important they were.**

Ask:

- **Tell about a time you did, or thought about doing, something you knew you weren't supposed to do.** Allow time.

Say: **God knows what's best for us, even though we may not always understand. While the people were building the tower, God came down from heaven. He was sorry when he saw the huge tower and the city. He said, "Look at what they can do! This is because they can all speak the same language. Just think of all the things they will be able to do later on. They will be able to do anything; nothing will be impossible for them." So God decided to give them different languages so they wouldn't be able to understand one another.**

Have kids pretend to speak in different languages to each other by simply making noises and sounds. Then say: **Even if you weren't actually speaking a different language just now, that's how it would sound if you did.**



God gave them different languages because he knew they were working together for the wrong reasons. Instead of working together to serve God or to help others, they were working to make themselves famous. By giving them different languages, he was protecting them from going down the wrong path.

Put kids in pairs. Then say: **Work together with your partner to plan a building you'd like to make. Here's the catch: you have to speak in your fake languages only.** Allow time. Then say: **It was pretty hard to work together when you couldn't understand each other!**

**When the people discovered that they couldn't understand one another anymore, they stopped building the tower. They began to move away from one another and scattered all over the land once more. That's why the tower is named Babel—because God confused the people by giving them many languages.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made it easy or difficult for all of us to work together to build one craft-stick tower?
- How is that like or unlike the building of the tower of Babel?
- Tell about your experience planning a building with your partner.
- Tell about a time you worked together really well with someone.
- Why do you want to put God first to accomplish things?

Say: **When ► WE PUT GOD FIRST**, God will always give us what we need. Instead of turning away from him as the people of Babel did, let's look to him and listen to him in all we do.



## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Building Love

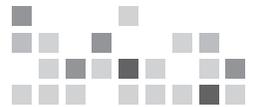
### What You'll Do ■■■■

Give each child a My Bible Fun page. Point out the tower of Babel. Invite kids to draw and color pictures of things they need from God on the tower.

After 3 to 5 minutes, invite kids to tell what some of their pictures represent.

Take kids to a staircase, or let them scatter around the room so they can act out climbing stairs in a little bit.

Say: ► **WE PUT GOD FIRST. Our Key Verse from Deuteronomy 6:5 tells us: Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).** Have kids repeat the adapted verse with



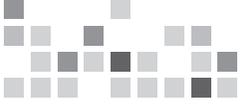
### Building Love Supplies

My Bible Fun  
crayons

### Building Love Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7  
pages from each My  
Bible Fun student book.





## Mighty God Supplies

CD player  
copies of the lyrics  
page (at the end of the  
lesson)

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Trust in the Lord"  
(Proverbs 3:5-6) (track  
20)

you. Then say: **When ► WE PUT GOD FIRST, that means we love him with our whole hearts.**

**The people of Babel built a tower for themselves. They loved themselves more than they loved God. Let's climb a tower that reminds us to love God and put him first. At each step, you'll say "whole heart." When we reach the top of the tower, we'll say, "Love God with your whole heart!"** Have the children "climb" the tower and repeat the Key Verse when they're done.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

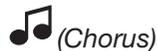
- How can climbing steps remind you that God comes first?
- What steps will you take to love God with your whole heart this week?

Say: **Loving God with our whole hearts takes work—we have to make a choice and we have to actively step toward God when ► WE PUT GOD FIRST.**

# Mighty God

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Review the words of "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) with the kids. Then play the song (track 20 on the CD), and have children clap to the rhythm and sing along.



**Trust in the Lord** (*trust in the Lord*)

**With all your heart** (*with all your heart*)

**And lean not on your own understanding.** (*understanding*)

**In all your ways** (*in all your ways*)

**Acknowledge him,** (*acknowledge him*)

**And he will make your paths straight.**

**Once you begin that way, don't you ever, ever stray;**

**You'll be on your way to an amazing life.**

**Once you begin that way, don't you ever, ever stray;**

**You'll be on your way to an amazing life!**

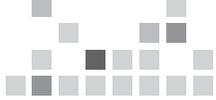
**Yeah, yeah, yeah.**

*(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)*

**Yeah, he will make your paths straight.**

**Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.**

"Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How is singing a way to put God first?
- What are some other ways you can show God he's first in your life?

Say: **The people of Babel didn't put God first, but we want to. One way we can do that is through singing. Singing to God is a way to tell God we know he deserves our love. We can sing about why God deserves to be first in our lives—he is our mighty God. And when we're singing, we're focused on him. Just by singing worship songs, ► WE PUT GOD FIRST.**



# 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► WE PUT GOD FIRST.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Put God first this week by reading a Bible verse first thing when you wake up.**
- **When you have to make a choice between right or wrong this week, choose to obey God by doing the right thing. If someone asks you why, say "I want to put God first."**
- **On a free day, before making plans, pray and ask God if there's anything he wants you to do.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

## Talk With Kids

Ask:

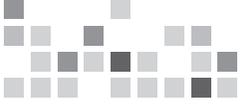
- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.**

Say: **The people of Babel made a choice not to put God first when they built that tower. Every moment of every day we're making choices about whether to put God first. Since we know he loves us and he wants what's best for us, we always want to look to him for direction. ► WE PUT GOD FIRST. Let's do that as we follow through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

My Bible Fun



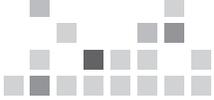


## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about putting God first. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Pray: **God, help us remember how to put you first. Thank you for being so strong and for giving us your strength. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Lyrics ■■■■

## Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6)

*(Chorus)*

**Trust in the Lord** *(trust in the Lord)*

**With all your heart** *(with all your heart)*

**And lean not on your own understanding.** *(understanding)*

**In all your ways** *(in all your ways)*

**Acknowledge him,** *(acknowledge him)*

**And he will make your paths straight.**

**Once you begin that way, don't you ever, ever stray;**

**You'll be on your way to an amazing life.**

**Once you begin that way, don't you ever, ever stray;**

**You'll be on your way to an amazing life!**

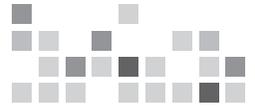
**Yeah, yeah, yeah.**

*(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)*

**Yeah, he will make your paths straight.**

**Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.**

"Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



**OK**  
**TO COPY**



