

# People Build a Tower at Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

Third-and fourth-graders have a growing awareness of what others have that they don't. Having a certain type of athletic shoe or a special backpack seems to spell social success. Kids become fixated on what they need to have or do to be socially accepted. While fitting in socially is important during this stage of childhood, use this lesson to help kids discover that God is most important.



► **Bible Point**  
We put God first.

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

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will discover ways to put God first.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b> Getting Started</p>	<p><b>The Tallest Tower</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Brag about who was able to build the tallest straw tower.</p>	<p>1 roll of tape and 10 drinking straws per 3 kids, several pairs of scissors</p>	
<p><b>2</b> Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>Building Babel</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Build a balloon tower as they hear about the Tower of Babel.</p>	<p>Bibles, several packages of balloons, several rolls of masking tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline</p> 	

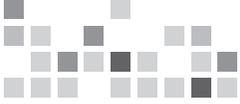
***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Puffed Up With Pride</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Talk about ways people focus on themselves.	sticky notes, pens, tape, balloons from previous activity	
	<b>Tower Power</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Think of ways to turn their focus back to God.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<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.*





### The Tallest Tower Supplies

1 roll of tape and 10  
drinking straws per  
3 kids  
several pairs of scissors

## 1

### GETTING STARTED

## The Tallest Tower

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids form trios, and give each trio scissors, tape, and 10 straws.

Say: **Your groups will have five minutes to build the tallest tower you can. The group with the tallest tower that stands on its own will win and be awarded “bragging rights,” which means you’ll get to celebrate your victory in front of everyone. Ready? Go!**

After five minutes, call time. Compare towers, and declare the group with the tallest tower the winner. Encourage members of the winning group to cheer, give one another high fives, and perform a victory dance around the room. Then have everyone sit together.

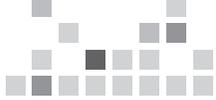
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Whether or not your group won, explain whether you felt proud of your tower.**
- **Winners, what did you like or not like about bragging in front of everyone else?**
- **What did everyone else think as the winners were celebrating their victory?**
- **Tell about a time someone else bragged in front of you. What was that like for you?**
- **What makes bragging good or bad?**

Say: Today we'll learn about a group of people in the Bible who claimed bragging rights for their accomplishments. We'll see how God reacted to their bragging as we learn why ► **WE PUT GOD FIRST**. Let's find out what happened at the tower of Babel.



**2**

**BIBLE  
EXPLORATION**

# Building Babel

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Make sure all kids have a Bible, and say: **We're looking at Genesis 11:1-9 in the Bible today. Let's turn there now.** Help kids find Genesis 11, and invite a willing child to read verse 1.

Say: **The Bible says the whole world had one language. That means people could all understand one another when they spoke. Stand up, go around the room shaking hands, and greet every other person in the room. You might say "Hello," or "How are you?" or "Good morning." Whatever you say, I'm sure you'll all understand one another. Begin greeting!**

After kids have greeted one another, have them sit together again. Invite another willing child to read aloud verse 2.

Say: **The Bible says the people moved eastward and then settled down. So let's move.** Have kids stand up, link arms, and move in a tight bunch to the other side of the room. Have them sit down together again.

Invite two more willing kids to read aloud verses 3 and 4.

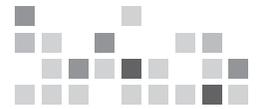
Say: **We don't have any bricks and mortar, but we do have some building materials.** Give each child several balloons. **It's tower-building time! Blow up and tie off your balloons to use as balloon bricks. Then roll a piece of masking tape into a loop, sticky side out, and stick a loop of tape on each balloon.**

Help kids with their balloons, as some kids may need help blowing them up and/or tying them off. Then designate a section of a wall as your building site. Say: **Take turns running up to the wall and sticking your balloon bricks onto the wall to build a tower. Build the tower from the floor up, as high as you can reach. Encourage one another as you build, and keep building until all of the balloons have been used.**

When children have finished building the tower, have them stand back, admire their work, and congratulate one another. Then have kids sit down.

Invite another willing child to read aloud verses 5 and 6.

Say: **Turn to a partner, and answer the following questions. After each question, I'll invite pairs to share their answers.**



**Building Babel  
Supplies**

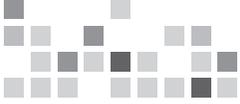
- Bibles
- several packages of balloons
- several rolls of masking tape

**Teacher Pack**  
Bible Timeline

**! BALLOON  
WARNING**

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.





Ask:

- What do you think about the people building a tower that reached into the sky?
- What do you think about their reason for doing something so incredible?
- What does that tell us about what these people probably thought of themselves?

Say: **God wasn't really worried that if people could build a tower together, they could do anything. God's concern was that people would *think* they could do anything. This overconfidence could be dangerous for them, because then they wouldn't realize they needed God.**

Ask:

- What bad things could happen if a person thought he or she could do anything without any help—ever?

Give partners time to share, and then invite willing pairs to share their ideas.

Say: **The people of Babel had one big problem—they kept thinking they didn't need God and putting themselves first. Other people in the Bible made similar mistakes.** Point to the appropriate place on the Bible Timeline for the following people. **Adam and Eve thought they could be as smart as God. Cain got mad and thought he didn't need to listen to God. The people in Noah's time thought they didn't have to obey God. And now we see these people building the tower and thinking other dangerous thoughts about God—"We can be as good as God. We don't need him anymore."**

**Let's keep reading and see what God actually did.** Invite another willing child to read aloud verse 7.

Say: **God came down and confused the people's language so they couldn't understand one another anymore. Stand up and greet one another again, but this time speak in a new and different language. If you don't know any foreign words, just make some up!**

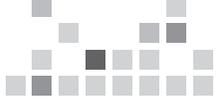
Give kids time to greet one another, and then invite another willing child to read aloud verse 8. Then tell kids to scatter around the room and sit down away from everyone else. Read aloud verse 9 yourself.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

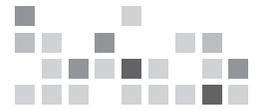
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about the way God confused the people's language?
- What made it difficult to understand what others were trying to say to you when everyone was speaking different languages?
- Why do you think confusing the language was or wasn't a good way to help people realize they couldn't do anything without God?



Say: In the language of the Bible, the word that means “confused” sounds like the word *Babel*. God confused the people’s language and scattered them all over the world to keep them from thinking they didn’t need him. Let’s look at what things in our own lives might make us forget that ► **WE PUT GOD FIRST.**



**3** WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE

## Puffed Up With Pride

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The tower builders of Babel were thinking about how great they were with their huge, strong tower. They weren’t thinking about how great God is. That’s something we’re in danger of, too.**

Distribute sticky notes and pens. Say: **With a partner, think of statements people make that show they’re thinking about themselves instead of thinking about how great God is. For example, people say, “I’m smarter than you” or “I’m the best runner in class.” Try to think of things you’ve actually heard or said yourself.** Allow kids a few moments to think. Then have pairs take turns writing the statements on sticky notes and sticking them to the tower’s balloons.

When kids have finished writing, say: **Our tower is full of statements that people make when they’re not thinking about God.**

Ask:

- **What are things these statements have in common?**

Say: **Many of these statements begin with the word *I*, don’t they? When we’re focused on ourselves, we’re not focused on God. With your partner, think of ways you could turn the “I” statements you wrote into “God” statements. For example, if you wrote, “I’m the best runner in class,” you might change that to “God gave me good running skills.” Then each pair can share answers with the rest of the group by turning the balloon tower into a ► **WE PUT GOD FIRST** tower.**

Allow kids a few minutes to think and write their answers on new sticky notes. Then let each pair tell how they changed their statements, and have kids remove the old statements and replace them on the balloons with their new statements. If the sticky notes won’t stay on the balloons, secure them with tape.

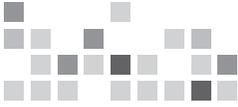
### Puffed Up With Pride Supplies

- sticky notes
- pens
- tape
- balloons from previous activity

### ! BALLOON WARNING

To avoid choking hazards be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.





### Tower Power Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

### Tower Power Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7  
pages from each Bible  
Truth Sleuth student  
book.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to give God credit for the things that you might feel like bragging about?
- What's the difference between bragging and talking about the things God can do?
- What can we do this week to put God first by changing what we say and do?

Say: It can take some practice, but when we remember that ► **WE PUT GOD FIRST**, it'll change our thoughts and our actions. And we won't forget about God like the people at the tower of Babel did. Let's take a look at our Key Verse and what it says about focusing on God.

## Tower Power

### What You'll Do

Distribute pens and today's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Say: **Our new tower shows how we can change our thinking to stay focused on God. Today's Key Verse, Deuteronomy 6:5, tells us another way to stay focused on God. Find the Key Verse on your Bible Truth Sleuth page, and let's read the verse out loud together.** Lead kids in reading aloud the Key Verse: **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength"** (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Have kids form three groups, and assign each group a number—one, two, or three.

Say: **Look at the "Loving God" section on your Bible Truth Sleuth page. Find the section that corresponds with your group's number, and then read the instructions with your group and together think of some answers. Write your answers in the space provided. In a few minutes, groups can share their answers.** Allow about five minutes for groups to brainstorm and write.

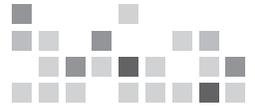
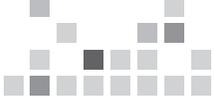
## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **One group at a time, tell about what you wrote.** Have kids share slowly so the other groups can write down the ideas.
- **What have you already done to show that you love God with your heart, soul, and strength?**

Say: ► **WE PUT GOD FIRST** to show God we need him. Remembering to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength will help us focus on God rather than on ourselves. Because the people at Babel forgot about God, they probably didn't love God that way and they ended up building the tower only for themselves. Let's decide on some ways we can put God first this week.



Daily Challenges  
Supplies

.....  
Bible Truth Sleuth

# 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about what we can do to make sure ► WE PUT GOD FIRST this week.**

As your Daily Challenge this week, choose one thing from each section of the "Loving God" portion of your Bible Truth Sleuth page. You'll choose one way to love God with your heart, one way to love God with your soul, and one way to love God with your strength.

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: **We've learned a valuable lesson today from the way the people at the tower of Babel forgot about God. Let's avoid their mistakes this week as we follow through on our Daily Challenges. We'll show God we need him when ► WE PUT GOD FIRST.**

## 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 Bible Truth Sleuth 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, asking God to help everyone remember to put God first. Pray: **God, help us to put you first. We need your help to put you before...** Invite kids to name something that usually takes priority in their lives. **In Jesus' name, amen.**



