TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

Following the flood, God wanted to have a fresh start. God commanded Noah in Genesis 9:1 to “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” This command echoes the one given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28. God intended the paradise of the garden to spread into the whole world, but sinful people had other desires. God always blesses in order to be a blessing to others.

Genesis 10 accounts for the nations that spread out in the land after the flood (Genesis 10:32). As the people moved east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. This story continues the cycle of disobedience to God and a choice to sin that will be a constant reminder of our need for a Savior. In Genesis 11:2, Scripture indicates that instead of filling the earth as commanded, these people chose to settle. A single language enabled them to devise a plan to build a large tower into the heavens.

Read Genesis 11:4. The people’s motive was clear: “Let us make a name for ourselves.” God had commanded them to fill the earth, but the people didn’t want to be scattered. They didn’t believe God would give them what was good if they obeyed. They sought to obtain for themselves what they thought was good.

Babel, better known by the name Babylon, means “gate of the gods.” The people, trying to build a monument tall enough to reach into heaven, the dwelling place of God, succeeded only in separating themselves from God and from each other.

This week you have the opportunity to tell the kids you teach about God’s better plan: His plan not for people to reach up to Him, but His plan to reach down to people by sending His Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life we couldn’t live and die the death we don’t want to die. That is the gospel. Pray that the kids you teach would have open hearts to receive it.

LESSON OVERVIEW/SCHEDULE

**Session Title:** The Tower of Babel  
**Bible Passage:** Genesis 11:1-9  
**Big Picture Question:** What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.  
**Key Passage:** Genesis 1:27  
**Unit Christ Connection:** God knew we would sin, and Jesus, our Creator, came to redeem us and protect us from the wrath of God by suffering for us.

**Transition Time**  
Welcome time  
Activity sheet/Table Centers  
Session starter (10 minutes)  
**Lesson**  
Countdown  
Introduce the session (1 minute)
THE BIBLE STORY/OVERVIEW

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

Do you remember what God told Noah’s family to do after the flood? Did God say to settle down and build a great city? No. God said to move out to different places and have many children.

But what do you think the people did? They moved to a valley that looked good to them. They said to one another, “We are great. We do not want to be scattered over the earth. Let’s build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. It will show how great we are.”

The people were not doing what God had told them to do after the flood. They wanted to be as important as God. They were saying “Look how great we are” instead of “Look how great God is.” They wanted glory for themselves instead of God. But God is greater than anyone.

Do you think the people could build a tower with its top in the sky? Do you think that even people who live today can use big machines to build a tower that tall? The tallest buildings in the world are very tall, but God can look down at them!

God came down to look at the tower. God said, “If they are doing this, they will keep thinking up more bad things to do. We need to stop them. Here is what we will do. We will mix up their words.” When people tried to make plans, they could not understand what other people were saying. If one workman said, “Hand me another brick,” nobody else knew what he wanted. They had to stop building the city.

Isn’t God smarter than people? He had such a great idea to stop the people from building that tower! Who else could have created many different languages? Families had to move away from each other to live with people they could understand. God made it so the people did just what He had told them to do after the flood. They were scattered all over the world. The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel (BAY buhl), or Babylon. It means “confused,” because the people were confused when they tried to talk to one another. Because the people chose to disobey God, their sin separated them from one another.

God’s plan to be with His people is much better than the plan of those who built the tower. They were trying to reach up to God and make a great name for themselves. But God’s plan was
to reach down to us and make a great name for Himself. The good news is that Jesus brings us to God and makes us friends again.

Christ Connection: Instead of glorifying God, people chose to ignore God’s plan and glorify themselves. This didn’t stop God’s plan to scatter the people and to form nations. Eventually one of these nations would become God’s chosen people. Through the nation of Israel, Christ would come to save the world.

TRANSITION TIME

Session Title: The Tower of Babel
Bible Passage: Genesis 11:1-9
Big Picture Question: What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.
Key Passage: Genesis 1:27
Unit Christ Connection: God knew we would sin, and Jesus, our Creator, came to redeem us and protect us from the wrath of God by suffering for us.

Welcome time
Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

Activities/Table Centers
• Table Centers (Miscellaneous Activities)
• “The Tower”/“Put it Together” activity sheet, 1 per kid (Lesson Specific)
• pencils

Ask kids to list on their activity sheet, “The Tower,” all the things they are good at doing. (Examples: sports, music, cooking, school, and so forth.) Kids may also attempt to write the key passage without assistance in the space provided.

Say • These are all great things, and some are even special talents and abilities that God has given you that make you unique.
• We have to be wise in how we use our talents and abilities. We can use them to help others and serve God, or we can use them to disobey God and hurt others.

Session starter (10 minutes)
Option 1: I need a friend

Kids will look for friends that have the same things in common. Use the list below or create a list that fits your group.
1. I need a friend with the same color eyes.
2. I need one friend who has the same type of shoes on.
3. I need two friends born in the same month as me.
4. I need five friends who have the same favorite TV show.
5. I need two friends wearing the same color.
Say • Our Bible story today is about some people who had the same things in common.
• Listen to today’s Bible story to find out how they chose to use what they had in common. Do they glorify God with their plans?

Option 2: Touch the walls
Options: Silence the more outspoken players after a few minutes to allow other kids to offer ideas. Allow the group to be creative and include items found in the room in their chain.
Challenge the group to work together to form a chain from one side of the room to another. On each side a person must be touching a wall.
Say • You all worked together to achieve a common goal.
• We can choose to work together to obey God or we can choose to work together to disobey God.
• In large group we will hear about a group of people who worked together to try to achieve a goal. Listen during the Bible story to find out if their goal was part of God’s plan.

Transition to large group

LESSON
Session Title: The Tower of Babel
Bible Passage: Genesis 11:1-9
Big Picture Question: What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.
Key Passage: Genesis 1:27
Unit Christ Connection: God knew we would sin, and Jesus, our Creator, came to redeem us and protect us from the wrath of God by suffering for us.

Option: Invite someone who speaks another language to visit your class and ask the kids several questions to illustrate the challenges of speaking different languages.

Countdown
• countdown video (Insert Provided DVD with Lesson Videos and Worship)
Show the countdown video as you clean-up table centers, set up classroom chairs for lesson, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (1 minute)
Leader • Hello! I am so excited to see that all our passengers have returned to Big Picture Airlines for another flight. Are you all ready to see where we will go today on our journey? Has anyone ever been to a country where they speak a language you don’t know? If you have, you know how hard it is to communicate with someone who does not speak the same language you speak. You may ask them how to get to your hotel, but they can’t understand what you mean. It can be challenging to work together if you do not speak the same language. Language is an important part of today’s Bible story, but before we get to today’s story, we are going to review our key passage.

Key Passage (6 minutes)
• Worship Song: “In His Own Image” (on provided DVD)
Leader • I need two boys and two girls to volunteer. Each pair has a set of papers with the words of the key passage typed on them. The job of each pair is to create a tower by arranging the key passage in order. The top of the tower should be the beginning of the key passage and the reference should be at the bottom of the tower. Ready, set, go.

Encourage the two pairs as they work to arrange their towers in order. After a couple of minutes allow the other boys and girls to verbally assist. Review each team’s work.

Sing “In His Own Image”

Leader • Great work and great singing everyone. Next week is the last week to work on your key passage for this unit. Remember God created you in His image so you can know and love Him, praise Him, and bring Him glory.

Big picture question (1 minute)

• 11x17 poster provided
  Option: Allow kids to create a drum roll by clapping their hands against their legs as you announce the big picture question.

Leader • Are you all ready for this week’s big picture question? I need a drum roll. Our big picture question is **What happens when people choose to sin?** We have learned so far that sin separates us from God, but in our Bible story this week we will see there is another consequence for sin. Remember to listen closely during the Bible story to find the answer to our question, **What happens when people choose to sin?**

Tell the Bible story (7 minutes)

• “The Tower of Babel” video (on provided DVD)
• Bibles
• big picture question: What happens when people choose to sin? – 11x17 poster provided
• Bible story picture – 11x17 poster provided

Option: You may choose to share how to become a Christian using the guide provided. This preparation will ensure extremely positive results. You might prepare to read the Bible story to the whole group, or you might choose to show the Bible story video “The Tower of Babel.”

Leader • The people had a choice to make. They could obey God, or they could disobey God. They could choose to work together to obey God or they could choose to work together to disobey God. But they chose not to honor God and decided to do what they wanted. The consequence of their sin was that God confused their language by making them all speak different languages. When they spoke different languages, they could no longer work together to disobey God’s commands. God’s plan was for the people to scatter and form different nations. He would one day send Jesus to earth as a part of one of these nations, the nation of Israel, to conquer sin and save people.

  **What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.** The consequence of their sin was that it not only separated them from God, it separated them from each other. God’s plan to heal our relationship with Him and to heal our relationship with others was to send Jesus. The Bible tells us in Colossians 1:20-22 that Jesus has reconciled us to God or healed our relationship with God by dying for our sin. When we become a Christian our relationship with God is healed because Jesus paid the price for our sin so we could be forgiven and no longer separated from...
Every day we have choices to make. We can choose to work together with others to obey God’s commands or to disobey God’s commands. God’s plan never included the people building a tower to heaven. God’s plan was for Him to reach people by sending His Son Jesus to earth. Like the people in Babel, our choices to sin can separate us from God and each other. I have another in-flight video I want you to watch.

**Discussion starter video (5 minutes)**
- “Sin Flashback” video (on provided DVD)

Show “Sin Flashback” video.

**Leader** • Someone explain what happened in the video. Have you ever done something wrong and it hurt a friend? Did you try to make it better? How?

Invite a couple of kids to share with the group their ideas. Steer everyone to think about the video in light of the Bible story.

**Leader** • Sometimes we don’t think about how our choices will affect others until after we hurt someone. There are times that our choice to sin means we will hurt a friend.

The Bible tells us in Romans 6:23 that the punishment for sin is death. Jesus lived the perfect life that we didn’t live and died the death that we don’t want to die. Because of our choice to sin we needed Jesus to die on the cross to pay for our sin. He is the only One who could die for our sins because He is the only One who lived a perfect life. He died in our place to rescue us from our sin. Our choices are important, and we should ask God to help us obey His commands. Let’s review the stories we have heard this month and the consequences of each person’s actions.

**Timeline map (4 minutes)**
- timeline map (Posted on wall in classroom. Additional copies provided for Table Time Review)

Review the map and the previous stories by pointing to each one and quizzing the kids about the big picture question and Christ Connection.

**Leader** • The story of the Tower of Babel teaches us the importance of obeying God and leading our friends to obey God. As we continue on our journey and stop at all the places on our map, we will see how important obedience to God is and how sad the consequences are when people choose to disobey.

*What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.*

**Sing (5 minutes)**
- Worship Song: “You Are God Alone” (on provided DVD)

**Leader** • Because Jesus died for our sins, when we sin God is always willing to forgive us if we ask. We may still have consequences for our sin, but God’s forgiveness is always available. Sing with me as we praise God’s greatness.

Sing “You Are God Alone.”

**Prayer (1 minute)**

**Leader** • *What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.* In Table Time today you will continue to learn about the Tower of Babel and what happens when people choose to sin.
I am so glad you joined us on our journey to Babel today. The Bible gives us great stories that help us understand how God wants us to live. After we pray, watch your small group leader for your signal to leave the airport and travel to your small group. Pray, asking God to help boys and girls work together to obey Him.

**Dismiss to small groups for Table Time**

**The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me**

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

- **God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from her Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

- **We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God (Romans 3:23). The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God’s punishment of death (Romans 6:23).

- **God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It’s something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

- **Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God’s family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

- **We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He’s already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

**TABLE TIME LEADER**

**Session Title:** The Tower of Babel  
**Bible Passage:** Genesis 11:1-9  
**Big Picture Question:** What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.  
**Key Passage:** Genesis 1:27  
**Unit Christ Connection:** God knew we would sin, and Jesus, our Creator, came to redeem us and protect us from the wrath of God by suffering for us.

**Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)**

- 3 index cards with 1 of these Scriptures written on each: Genesis 11:2; Genesis 11:3; Genesis 11:4.  
- Bibles, 1 per kid  
- paper  
- markers or crayons

© 2012 LifeWay Christian Resources
• **Timeline - small group visual pack**

Assist boys and girls in locating today’s Bible passage, Genesis 11, in their Bibles. Form two or three groups. Give each group one of the index cards. Ask them to read the verse in their group and draw a picture showing what happened in that verse. Allow each group to share what they drew and why.

Conclude the Bible story review by reading the remaining Scripture verses (Genesis 11:5-9) together as a group or by using your own words.

**Say** • God desires for us to obey Him.
• Sin always has consequences.

**What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.**

• Through what nation would Christ come to the world? *(Through the nation of Israel, Christ would come to save the world.)*

Review the timeline using the small group visual pack. Note the cycle of sin and how it demonstrates again and again the need for Jesus to save people from their sin.

**Key passage activity (5 minutes)**

• cups, 23 per team
• permanent markers
• key passage poster

Tips: Twenty-three cups will not make a perfect pyramid. The kids will need to be creative to build the tallest tower. To save time, print the key passage on the cups ahead of time. Make 1 set per team.

Create two or three teams. Instruct each team to write one word of the key passage on each cup (including the reference). Then they must build the tallest tower with the cups in key passage order. They may stack the cups in any way they choose, but a leader or teacher must be able to read the key passage in order.

Invite kids to say the key passage from memory. Ask your adult leaders if anyone would like to volunteer to quote the key passage from memory. Lead the entire group to read the passage together.

**Say** • Next week is our last week to work on our key passage. Work on memorizing the passage during the week, and we will see if our whole group can say it from memory.
• Remember that being made in God’s image means that we were made to know and love God, to praise and glorify Him.

**Activity choice (10 minutes)**

**Option 1: Stacking game**

• pencils (or colored pencils)

Options: Form groups of 2 or 3 and allow kids to play the game with a smaller group.

The first player shares a way he can obey God before placing two straws parallel to each other about 3 1/2-inches apart. The next player shares a way he can obey God and places two straws perpendicular to the other straws. Continue around the group and allow players to share ways to obey God and to place two straws down without knocking over the straws. Play until the straws fall or until everyone has had at least one turn.

**Say** • Even though the people disobeyed God, their sin did not stop God’s plan to scatter them throughout the earth to form nations.

© 2012 LifeWay Christian Resources
• What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.
• God’s plan to heal relationships was to send Jesus (through the nation of Israel) to reconcile people to God by paying the price for their sin. To reconcile is to bring together or heal the relationship between two people.

Option 2: Tower luggage tags
• foam sheets
• single hole punch
• permanent markers
• string or yarn
• “Tower Luggage Tag Template” (Enhanced CD)
• scissors

Lead boys and girls to cut a tower luggage tag from a piece of foam using one of the templates provided. Help kids punch a hole in the top of their foam tower and tie a string through the hole. Suggest that boys and girls write the words obey God and decorate one side of their tag.

Say • God had instructed the people to fill the whole earth. Some of the people decided to stop moving and disobey God’s command by building a city and a tower.
• Our tower luggage tags will remind us to always obey God’s commands.
• What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.
• God’s plan to heal relationships was to send Jesus (through the nation of Israel) to reconcile people to God by paying the price for their sin. To reconcile is to bring together or heal the relationship between two people.

Missions Connection (optional video, 5 minutes)
• “Go West” missions video (on provided DVD)

Missionaries spread the love of Jesus to many different people groups who live in Senegal

Prayer and Clean-Up (5 minutes)
Urge boys and girls to write a prayer to God asking Him to help them obey His commands. Kids may also thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins in their prayer.

• Lead kids to share any prayer requests. Invite one child to end small group time by praying.

Clean-Up Room

Insights for Small Group Leaders
Here are a few ideas you can use anytime you have a few extra minutes in small group.

Key passage game:
• chart paper or dry erase board
• regular marker or dry erase marker
• key passage poster (optional)

Write a blank space line on a piece of chart paper or dry erase board for each letter in the key passage. Allow kids to take turns guessing letters to fill in the blanks. For a twist, use only a phrase or section of the key passage. Once all the blanks are filled in, challenge kids to share the
missing portions of the key passage.

**Before and after Books of the Bible:**
- Bibles (optional)

Form two teams or play as individuals. Name a book of the Bible and select a kid to share the book found in the Bible before the called book and the book in the Bible found after the called book.

**Big picture question review:**
- index cards
- marker or pen

Write the big picture questions and answers from a unit (you can also use more than one unit) on separate index cards. Guide kids to assemble the cards in correct order. For an added twist hide the cards around your teaching space and allow kids to locate them prior to assembling them in order.

**Timeline mix-up:**
- chart paper or dry erase board
- regular marker or dry erase marker

List stories or people from the Bible on a piece of chart paper or dry erase board. Challenge kids to put the stories or people in chronological order.

**Dismiss**
Instructions: Find where each piece belongs in the puzzle. Write the words in the puzzle. Read all the words in each piece in order to discover a special message.
Instructions: List or draw on the tower things you are good at doing.

Write the key passage in the cloud above the helicopter. First, try to write the passage without using your Bible for help. Then look up the key passage in your Bible and correct any mistakes. Practice saying the key passage with a friend.
Tower luggage tag template

**Instructions:** Choose a size and print several copies on heavyweight paper for kids to use as a template to trace and cut around.

2x4

3x5
In the Beginning

Session Title: The Tower of Babel
Bible Passage: Genesis 11:1-9
Big Picture Question for preschoolers: What happens when people sin? Sin separates people from God and one another.
Big Picture Question for kids: What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God’s plan is to heal relationships.
Key Passage: Genesis 1:27

Christ Connection: Instead of glorifying God, people chose to ignore God’s plan and glorify themselves. This didn’t stop God’s plan to scatter the people and to form nations. Eventually one of these nations would become God’s chosen people. Through the nation of Israel, Christ would come to save the world.

Build a tower together (sample materials: building blocks, deck of cards, sugar cubes, frosting and graham crackers). Discuss the big picture question. Note below what happened in the Bible story when the people chose to sin by building a city and a tower.
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27