Use Week of:

The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9

MAIN POINT: God created people to give Him glory.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.

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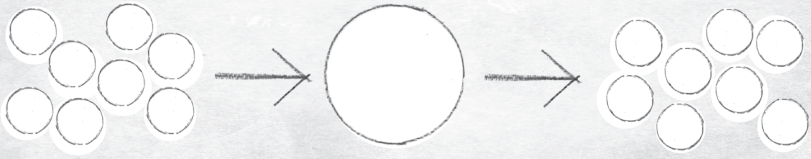

Leader BIBLE STUDY

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.

Genesis 10 accounts for the nations that spread out in the land after the flood (Genesis 10:32). The people moved east and settled in a valley. 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.

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In Genesis 11:2, Scripture indicates that instead of filling the earth as God commanded, these people devised a plan to build a city and a large tower into the heavens.

Read Genesis 11:4. The people's motive was clear: "Let us make a name for ourselves." The people didn't want to be scattered. They didn't believe God would give them what was good if they obeyed Him. They sought to obtain for themselves what they believed was good.

The people tried to build a monument with its top in the heavens, but they succeeded only in separating themselves from God and from each other. God confused their language and scattered them over the earth. They were unable to finish building the city, so the city was called Babel—which sounds like the Hebrew word for "confused"—because there the Lord confused the people's language.

This week you have the opportunity to tell the preschoolers 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 preschoolers you teach would have open hearts to receive it.



Additional resources for each session are available at *gospelproject.com.* For free training and session-by-session help, visit *www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.*

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

After the great flood, God told Noah's family to spread out and fill the whole earth. As Noah's sons and daughters got married, they started their own families. Soon, **more and more people were on the earth. These people moved to a valley that looked good to them. They did not fill the whole earth; the people did not obey God.**

They said to one another, "We are great. We do not want to spread out over the earth. Let's build a city together, and let's make a tower so tall that the top of the tower reaches to the sky. Then everyone will know how great we are."

God created people to give Him glory, but the people did not want to give God glory. They wanted to give themselves glory. Instead of saying, "Look how great God is," they said, "Look how great we are!"

But no one is greater than God. **While the people made bricks and started building, God came down to look at the tower.** He was not happy about what they were doing. **God said, "If they are doing this, they will keep thinking of more bad things to do. We need to stop them."**

So **God decided to 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.

The people had to stop building the city. 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 spread out all over the earth. The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel (BAY buhl).

Christ Connection: People chose to make themselves famous instead of God. They ignored God and did not do what He wanted them to do. God mixed up their language and spread out the people all over the earth. One day, Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and every language will worship Him together. (Revelation 7:9-10)



WANT TO DISCOVER GOD'S WORD? GET *MORE!*

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that the people whom God created originally spoke one language. One day, all of God's people will worship Jesus in every language. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out *www.lifeway.com/devotionals.*

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9
MAIN POINT: God created people to give Him glory.
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.

Welcome time

- "God Makes Everything" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Tower Maze" activity page, 1 per kid
- crayons or markers

Guide preschoolers to complete the maze.

SAY • In today's Bible story we will hear how some people wanted to make a tower so tall that the top of the tower would reach the sky. This was a bad idea. Let's find out why.

Color circle



- 2 sets of colored paper in 4 colors
- masking tape

Tape four pieces of different color paper to the floor leaving plenty of space between the papers. Hold the other four papers in your hand. Explain that when you hold up a paper, preschoolers must circle together around that color paper on the floor. When you are not holding up a paper, preschoolers should spread out around the room. Play as time allows.

SAY • After the great flood, God told Noah's family to

spread out and fill the whole earth. Instead of spreading out as God said, they moved together to a valley that looked good to them. They disobeyed God. We will find out what else they did in today's Bible story.

Make bricks

- clay
- grass, straw, hay
- ice cube trays
- craft sticks
- Allergy Alert download

Provide a lump of clay for each child. Display short sticks, grass, straw, or hay. Demonstrate how to fold the nature items into the clay. Guide preschoolers to press their clay into ice cube trays to form bricks. Assist preschoolers in using craft sticks to remove their bricks from the tray. Preschoolers may use their bricks and work together to build a small tower.

SAY • In today's Bible story, we will hear about some people who decided to build a city together. They tried to build a tower to reach up into the sky. They wanted everyone to think they were great. They forgot that God created the world to show how great He is!

Transition to Bible study

- countdown video (optional)

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Encourage the children to pretend to use a tool such as a hammer or saw as they move to Bible study.

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9
MAIN POINT: God created people to give Him glory.
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

Introduce the Bible story

Direct preschoolers to spread out around the room where no one is able to touch another. Then gather everyone back to the teaching area.

SAY • We take up a lot of space when we spread out. After the flood, God told Noah and his family to spread out and fill up the earth. That is not what happened. Let's find out what did happen in today's Bible story.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "The Tower of Babel" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Open your Bible to Genesis 11.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book in the entire world! The Bible has God's words in it. Everything in the Bible is true. Today's Bible story comes from the very first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Show the Bible story video "The Tower of Babel," or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

SAY • God created the world to show how awesome He is. **God created people to give Him glory.** The people didn't want to do that. Instead of showing everyone

how great God is, they wanted to show everyone how great they were, which is not very great.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. What did God tell people to do after the flood? (*spread out and fill up the earth*)
2. What did the people decide to build so everyone would think they were great? (*a tall tower*)
3. Why did God mix up the people's words (*to stop them from building the city and doing more bad things*)
4. In what city was the unfinished tower? (*Babel*)

Big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question for today is, ***Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.*** Glory means showing the world how awesome God is. The people wanted the world to think they were awesome. **God created people to give Him glory.** Life works best when we say, "Look at Jesus!" instead of "Look at me!"

Key passage

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 8:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing the key passage song together.

- Key Passage Poster
- "There Is Only One" song

SAY • People chose to make themselves famous instead of the one God. God mixed up their words and spread out the people all over the earth. One day, the one Lord, Jesus, will bring His people back together. People from every group and who use different words will worship Him together.

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9
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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

Sort and stack blocks



- interlocking blocks

Provide an assortment of interlocking blocks. Encourage preschoolers to stack the blocks by color. Guide them to count the blocks and determine how many blocks there are of each color. Which color of blocks do they have the most of? The least? Assist preschoolers in arranging the blocks in descending order.

SAY • Building a city with a tower to reach up to the sky would take a lot of bricks, but God did not want the people to build the tower. What they were doing was a wrong thing. **God created people to give Him glory.** The people wanted to give themselves glory. God mixed up their words and spread them out all over the earth. One day, Jesus will bring all His people back together to worship Him.

Play a Tower Relay

- blocks, 2 sets
- masking tape

Form two teams. Line up each team single file behind a masking tape start line. Place a set of blocks for each team at the start line. Designate an area for building on the opposite side of the room. One at a time, each team member will take a block to the building area to build a tower. Once a child has placed her block on her team's tower, she must

return to the back of the line. The team who uses all their blocks first wins. Play again, declaring the team with the highest tower the winner.

SAY • Building tall towers is fun! I told you to build tall towers, but that is not what God told the people in our Bible story to do. God wanted them to spread out over the whole earth. **God created people to give Him glory.** What they were doing did not give God glory. God spread them out all over the earth like He told them to do in the first place.

Hammer painting

- paper
- toy hammers
- foam plates
- paper towels
- paint
- water
- wipes
- smocks

Provide a toy hammer and a sheet of paper for each child. Place a folded paper towel onto a foam plate. Pour paint onto the paper towel. Demonstrate how to dip the tip of the toy hammer in the paint and gently hammer the paper to create a colorful pattern. Encourage creativity. Place hammer paintings in a safe place to dry.

SAY • We use hammers to build. The people in our story today were building a city. God had told them to spread out and fill the earth. They disobeyed. **God created people to give Him glory.** They were not doing what God created them to do. What they were doing was sin. God punished them by mixing up their words, but one day God's people from every group and who use different words will come together and worship Jesus.

Make mud

- foam plates
- plastic table cloth
- dirt
- water
- large craft sticks
- smocks

Place a foam plate for each child on a table covered with a plastic table cloth. Place a small amount of dirt on each

plate. Pour water a little at a time on the dirt.
Provide a smock and a large craft stick for each preschooler. Guide preschoolers to use their craft sticks to mix the dirt and water to create mud. Add more water as needed to adjust the consistency of the mud.

SAY • The people in today's Bible story may have used mud to make bricks. God was not happy about the tower they were building. **God created people to give Him glory.** God said, "If they are doing this, they will keep thinking of more wrong things to do. They need to be stopped." God mixed up their words. One day, Jesus will bring God's people back together. People from every group and who use different words will worship Jesus together.

Review Game

- "Bible Story Review" printable
- lightweight medium-sized box
- tape
- inflatable game cube (optional)

Before the session, print the "Bible Story Review" printable. If you have an inflatable game cube, place the pictures in the pockets. If you do not have an inflatable game cube, tape each of the pictures to the side of a lightweight box. Direct the preschoolers to line up and invite the first preschooler in line to toss the cube. Encourage them to share one fact about the Bible story that coincides with the picture on top. Help preschoolers recall facts as need. End by reviewing today's Bible story.

SAY • **God created people to give Him glory.** In today's Bible story, the people chose to make themselves famous instead of God. They ignored God and did not do what He wanted them to do. God mixed up their words and spread out the people all over the earth. One day, Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and who speak

different words will worship Him together.

Snack

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve crackers and cheese spread for snack. Encourage preschoolers to construct a tower by layering crackers and cheese spread. Remind preschoolers how God mixed up the words of the people and spread them all over the earth. One day, Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and who use different words will worship Him together.

Transition

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of a tower. Remind children that **God created people to give Him glory.** Our job is to show the world how awesome God is! One day all people from every group and language will worship Jesus together.

SAY • God, You created us to make You famous! Forgive us when we try to make ourselves famous instead. Cause us to show the world how great You are. Amen!

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

Journal Page

God the Creator

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions: Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.
What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

Session 1: God Created the World
Genesis 1:1-25
God created everything.

Session 2: God Created People
Genesis 1:26-2:25
God created people in His own image.

Session 3: Sin Entered the World
Genesis 3:1-24
Adam and Eve sinned.

Session 4: Cain and Abel
Genesis 4:1-16,25-26
God punished Cain for his sin.

Session 5: Noah and the Ark
Genesis 6:5–9:17
God is holy.

Session 6: The Tower of Babel
Genesis 11:1-9
God created people to give Him glory.



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There is but one God, the Father ... and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is but one God, the Father ... and one Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is one God, the Father ... and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is one God, the Father ... and one Lord, Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6



God created people to give Him glory.





Tower Maze

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the maze.



DOWNLOAD THE TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.

BIBLE STORY:
THE TOWER OF BABEL

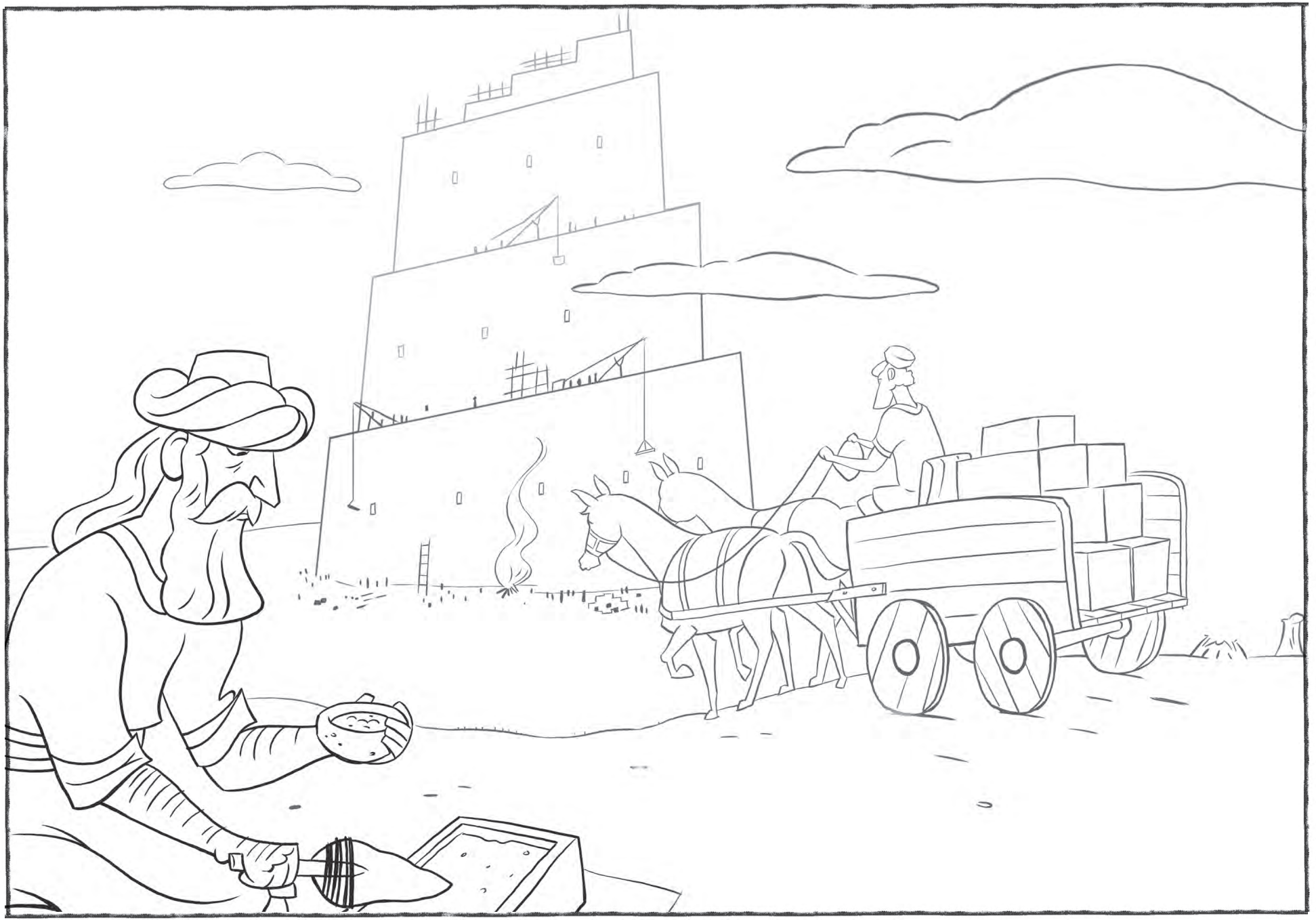
- People disobeyed God and did not spread out and fill the earth.
- People decided to make a tower to reach to the sky.
- God mixed up their languages.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What are some talents or gifts God has given the members of your family?
- How have you been tempted to use those talents to make people think you are great?
- How can you use your talents to show how great God is?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

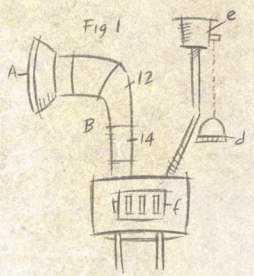
- Talk about how your family can bring God glory at church and in your community.
- Go further: Identify a specific way you can use a talent or gift to honor God, and do it!



Why did God create the world?

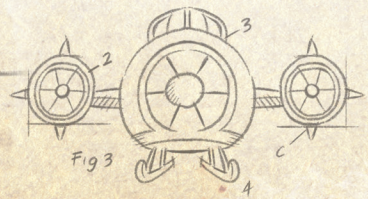


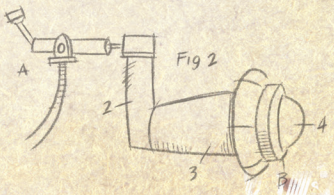
Why did God create the world?

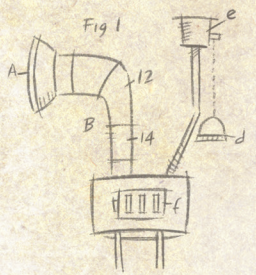




God created the world for His Glory.

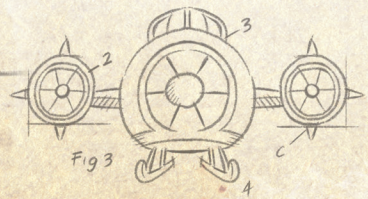


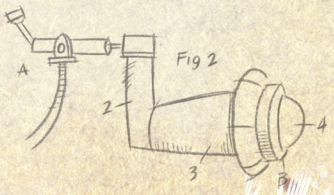




What is sin?







What is sin?

Sin is breaking God's law.





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God the Creator

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