Use Week of:

The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9

MAIN POINT: God created people to give glory to Him alone.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

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

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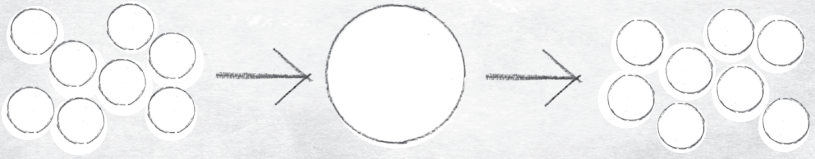

Leader BIBLE STUDY

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 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.



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 and his sons to grow their families and fill the earth. Noah's sons got married and had children. Their families grew, and **the people started to travel through the land.**

At this time, everyone in the world spoke the same language. **One day, the people traveled through a valley**. They liked it there, **and they decided to live there.**

"We don't want to be scattered all over the earth," they said. "Let's build a city and a tower so big that it touches the sky. The tower will make us famous!"

The people were not doing what God had told them to do. 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. God created people to give glory to Him alone.**

The people made bricks out of clay and baked them in the fire to make stones. Then they **used** the **stones to start building the tower.**

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."**

So God mixed up the people's words. Instead of everyone speaking the same language, everyone spoke different languages. **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 were scattered all over the world. **The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel** (BAY buhl)**. Because the people chose to disobey God, their sin separated them from one another.**

Christ Connection: People chose to give glory to themselves instead of God. They ignored God's plan, so God confused their language and scattered the people all over the earth. One day, Jesus will gather together all of God's people—people from every tribe and people who speak all kinds of languages—and they will worship Him. (Revelation 7:9-10)



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

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that the people whom God created originally spoke one language. One day, people of every language will worship Jesus together. 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 glory to Him alone.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

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

Welcome time

ARRIVING ACTIVITY: Tallest buildings

Guide the conversation by allowing kids to tell you about the tallest building that they have ever seen. Then ask them to tell you about a time they went into a very tall building.

SAY • Today we will learn about a time that people built a large tower. When the tower was being built, God stopped the people by confusing their languages and scattering them.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Word Confusion" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

SAY • In our story today, people built a big tower. They didn't build it to worship God, though. Instead, they wanted to build a huge tower so that they could make a big deal out of themselves. God saw their sinfulness, so He confused their languages and scattered them. **God created people to give glory to Him alone,** and instead of doing that, the people focused on giving glory to themselves.

Answer: *God created people to give glory to Him alone.*

Session starter (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Would you rather …

Guide kids to stand in the center of the room. Explain that you will give them two options. As you give the options, you should point to one side of the room for the first option, and then the other side of the room for the second option. They will choose an option and move to the side of the room that corresponds with their choice.

Options: Would you rather play baseball or perform a song? write a story or spend time with friends? build something or draw something? go to school or go to sports practice? play an instrument or plan a party?

SAY • God has given us gifts and abilities to use to give Him glory. **God created people to give glory to Him alone.** In our story today, a group of people built a tower for their own glory instead of God's. Let's hear more about it.

OPTION 2: Make a trophy

Form groups of five or six kids. Give each group a bag of items like construction paper, aluminum foil, building blocks, stickers, and chenille stems. Guide kids to work within their groups to create a great trophy.

- bags, 1 per group
- items, such as construction paper, aluminum foil, building blocks, stickers, chenille stems

SAY • What is the purpose of a trophy? Trophies indicate something that we've done or we're good at. God has given us many gifts and ability to use to give Him glory! **God created people to give glory to Him alone.** Everything we do can give glory to Him! In today's story, God's people chose to build a tower to bring themselves glory. Let's hear more about it.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

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

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

• binoculars

[Large Group Leader enters with binoculars to her eyes.]

LEADER • Well hello, travelers! Are you ready for an adventure today? We're off to visit a valley that was very popular during the time of our story. All people wanted to gather there, and there was a lot of construction and commotion! It was a pretty busy place. Do you remember what has happened over the last few sessions?

Giant timeline (2 minutes)

• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
• Main Point Posters

LEADER • Let's check out our timeline. In the beginning, there was nothing but God. **God created everything for His glory.** God didn't just stop creating after He made land, the stars, plants, and animals. **God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.** Everything God created was good! Unfortunately, the people whom God created sinned. **Adam and Eve's sin separated them from**

God, and **Cain's sin separated him from God and people.** Only a few generations later, God looked upon the whole earth and saw that sin had spread throughout creation. The people God created only wanted to sin all the time. God decided to start over. **God is holy, and He punishes sin.** God showed mercy to Noah and his family. To destroy sin, God sent a great flood to wipe away all living things except those in the ark with Noah.

Our story today is about a time that people sinned again. This Bible story happened after Noah and his family had many children and filled the earth again. The people all gathered together and built a tower. They didn't do this to honor God, though.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • God created people for a very specific purpose. ***Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.*** The people building the tower had forgotten that their goal should have been to bring glory to God every day.

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • Let's spend some time giving God glory with our voices now!

Sing together "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)."

- "All Creatures of Our God and King (He is Our Gain)" song

Key passage (4 minutes)

LEADER • This will be our last week learning about our key passage, 1 Corinthians 8:6. Let's say it together.

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

Knowing that there is only one true God who made us should make us want to bring glory to only Him! God has given us all of our gifts, talents, and abilities. He alone deserves the glory from our gifts.

Say the key passage together multiple times. Then, remove the poster and see how many kids can say the key passage without help. Sing together, "There Is Only One."

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Bibles
- "The Tower of Babel" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster

Help kids find Genesis 11 in their Bibles.

LEADER • Let's learn about what happened in our Bible story today.

Open your Bible to Genesis 11. Show the video or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read the bolded text.

LEADER • God had told Noah's family to spread out and fill the earth with people. **God created people to give glory to Him alone.** The people disobeyed God. Instead, they wanted to stay together in the valley and buid a tall tower. They were full of pride and wanted to show how great they were by building a huge tower.

Any time we make something more important than God, that's sin. The people sinned because they put their glory above God's glory. They weren't building a great tower so people would see it and know God was great, but they wanted people to think that they were great instead.

Review the story by asking the following questions:

1. What did God tell the people to do? (*He told Noah and his sons to grow their families and fill the earth, Gen. 9:1*)

2. What did the people do instead? (*They wanted to build a tower to show how great they were, Gen. 11:4*)
3. What did God do to make the people spread out like He had commanded them? (*He mixed up their languages so that they could not understand each other, Gen. 11:7-9*)
4. ***Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.***

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

- "Unit 1, Session 6" discussion starter video

LEADER • The problem wasn't that the people were building a big tower. God had told them to spread out all over the earth, and the people were not obeying God. They didn't want to please God by using their talents for Him. Instead, they wanted everyone to see how great they were because they were able to build such a large tower. The people wanted the glory instead of giving the glory to God. **God created people to give glory to Him alone.** The people were not doing what they had been created to do. Let's watch our video and see what it might have to do with our story.

Show the "Unit 1, Session 6" video.

LEADER • What do you think about Samuel? Samuel was able to do a lot of good things, but was he doing them for the right reasons? Did he do those things by himself? All of our gifts are gifts from God, and He gives us the power to use them. We can choose whether we use them to glorify God or to glorify ourselves. What did Samuel choose?

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Big picture question and prayer (3 minutes)

- Big Picture Question Poster

Show the big picture question poster.

LEADER • Let's review our big picture question. ***Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.*** Can someone give me an example of how we can give God glory? What about an example of something that does not give God glory? Let's seek to bring God glory. After all, that's why we were created!

Pray and ask that God would help each person to obey Him. Ask God to give kids hearts that want to give glory to God instead of themselves.

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 the 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 3:19.

 **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.

Small Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9

MAIN POINT: God created people to give glory to Him alone.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

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

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- red or brown construction paper
- scissors
- marker
- tape

Cut rectangles from red or brown construction paper to simulate bricks. Before the session, write one word of the key passage on each brick and hide them around the room. Guide kids to find each brick and work together to tape the bricks on the wall in order to form a tower.

SAY • Our tower reminds us that God is the only One who is worthy of glory because He created us. He is the reason that we live! **God created people to give glory to Him alone.**

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster

Guide kids to stand and spread out around the room. Explain that you will read a statement. If the answer is true, kids will jump as high as possible. If the answer is false, they will squat as low to the ground as posssible.

Read the following statements:

1. God told the people to stay close together. (*false, God told the people to spread out and fill the earth; Gen. 9:1*)
2. The people were building a tower to praise God. (*False, the people were building so that they could make a name for themselves; Gen. 11:4*)

3. God confused the people's language so that they would not be able to understand each other. (*true, Genesis 11:7-9*)
4. ***God created the world and everything in it for His glory.*** (*true*)
5. We can give God glory every day and in every activity that we do. (*true*)
6. God does not care if we give Him glory or not. (*False,* **God created people to give glory to Him alone.**)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Make God famous



- paper
- markers

Give each child a piece of paper. Guide kids to design a magazine cover for a magazine that is about the greatness of God. Ask them to think of different reasons why God deserves the glory from our lives.

SAY • The people who were building the tower didn't build to bring glory to God. God is the only One who is worthy of our glory! **God created people to give glory to Him alone.**

As we look at our magazine covers, we remember that God can do things we can't do. He created us; He loves is; He sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay the penalty for sin and raise Him to life again to show us that Jesus was victorious over death. God is just, holy, and merciful. He deserves the glory from our lives. Can you name some ways that we might be able to give God glory today? What about some ways we might give God glory this week?

OPTION 2: Missions connection

- paper
- tape
- straw
- craft sticks

SAY • God told the people to spread out, but they didn't obey Him. He confused their languages so that they would spread out to live among people who spoke the same language. Do you think it would be difficult to build a tower if we all spoke different languages?

Form two groups. Give groups building materials like paper, tape, straws, and craft sticks. Explain that both groups will build in silence with the materials they have been given. After five minutes, declare the tallest tower the winner.

SAY • God confused the languages of the people and spread them out. They stopped building a city to bring themselves glory. Even today, people speak many, many different languages. Some people don't even have access to the Bible because it is not in their language yet. It was hard to build a tower, but it would be really hard to tell someone about Jesus without being able to use words they understand! Let's take a minute to pray for the people all over the world who haven't heard about Jesus.

Pray that God would raise up missionaries to go to these people groups and teach them about Jesus.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons or markers
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*

Distribute each child's journal. Guide kids to draw a picture or write a list of a way or ways that they could give glory to God. Ask them to think about a time when they could easily take the glory for themselves, and how they will instead point to Jesus.

SAY • Have you ever tried to make yourself great? What did you do? What does it feel like a few days later when

you win an important game and brag about how well you played or you make the best grade on a test and brag about it to your friends? You probably don't feel quite as great about it as you did when it happened.

Our glory doesn't last. One minute, everyone says you are great, and the next minute no one remembers what you did. How does that remind us that we should focus on giving glory to God? Our glory doesn't last long, but God's glory lasts forever! We can give Him glory by obeying Him and pointing others to Him.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for showing us that He is the only One worthy of glory. Ask God to help everyone present to give glory to God instead of seeking glory for themselves. Pray that others would begin to love and trust Jesus because of the way that kids give glory to God by obeying Him.

Journal Page

God the Creator

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions: Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.
What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

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

Session 2: God Created People
Genesis 1:26-2:25
God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.

Session 3: Sin Entered the World
Genesis 3:1-24
Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

Session 4: Cain and Abel
Genesis 4:1-16,25-26
Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

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

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



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There is one God, the Father. All things are from Him, and we exist for Him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through Him, and we exist through Him.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

1 Corinthians 8:6



God created people to give glory to Him alone.





Word Confusion

INSTRUCTIONS: Unscramble the words to complete the main point.



DOWNLOAD THE TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

BIBLE STORY:
THE TOWER OF BABEL

- People disobeyed God by choosing to settle together instead of filling the earth.
- People built a tower, intending to bring themselves glory instead of God.
- God mixed up their languages and scattered them.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Who mattered more to the people—themselves or God?
- How have you been tempted to use your talents to make people think you are great?
- How can you use your talents to show how great God is?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

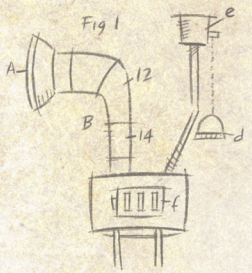
- List the talents and abilities you see in family members.
- Go further: Choose a way to use your talents to show God's greatness.



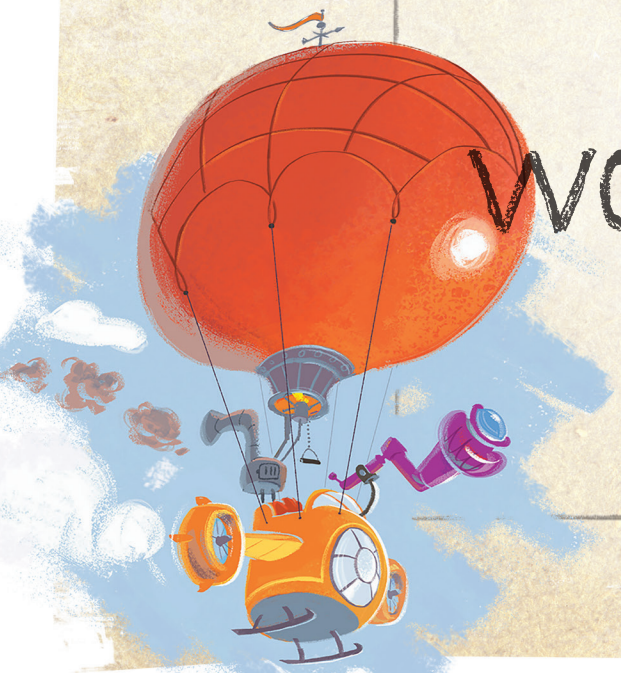
Why did God create the world?

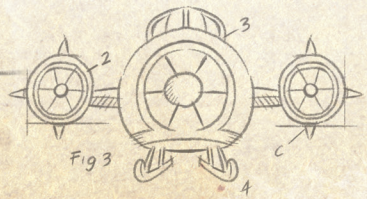


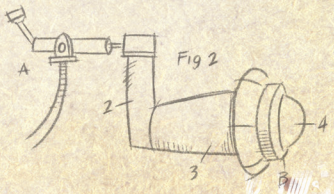
Why did God create the world?

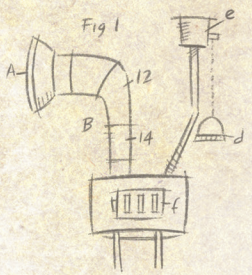


God created the world and everything in it for His glory.



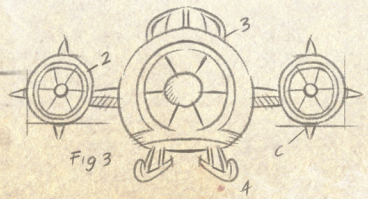


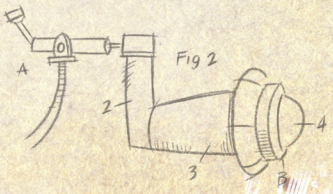




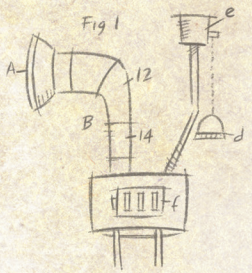
What is sin?







What is sin?



Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.



