



LESSON 2

THE TOWER OF BABEL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is the Best

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11

GOD'S BIG STORY: After the flood, the people think they can receive blessing and power by building a tower rather than seeking and following God's plan. As a result, God scatters the people and confuses their languages.

WORD OF WONDER: God is faithful. That's who He is. —from 2 Timothy 2:13

- Play Stations:
 - Block Tower
 - Construction Site Play
 - The Tower of Babel Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Cup Stack Towers
- Word of Wonder: From 2 Timothy 2:13
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: House of the Lord, All of Me
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Circle Time: Roll the Best
- Craft: First Place Prize
- Closing Game: Knock It Down





LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is the Best

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Timothy 2:13

God wants to do great things with us. There is absolutely nothing wrong with building cities and towers. We are walking in our identity as people created in the image of God when we create and collaborate with others toward big goals! But what happens when human beings decide what's best and run with it? In Genesis 11:1–8, we read the story of the Tower of Babel. Have you ever plowed forward with your creative plans without giving a thought to what God's plan might be? What was the result?

Clearly, God designed us with incredible ingenuity. And God's Word describes great power in unity! But why did He choose to trust humankind with so much creative power? Perhaps there is a beautiful grace that comes over a group of people who are dedicating their creative skills to the glory of God.

Every week, several friends and I meet to spend two hours dedicating our creative gifts back to the One who bestowed them. We sing, pray, play instruments, paint, or dance, and the only goal is to pour out our love on Jesus together. But that's not the only result! The sounds and experiences that come forth during these sessions are stunningly beautiful. Participants and observers find healing and breakthrough. There is power, fun, and satisfaction in building according to God's perfect plan. In what ways are you able to offer your creativity and cooperation toward a God goal?

—**Nancy Wood Clark**

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

After the great flood (Genesis 6–9), people started to reproduce and populate again. Genesis 10 gives a genealogical account of Noah’s sons after the flood. Sometime after this, people gathered to build the city of Babel.

WHAT?

The people wanted to build a great city and tower to make a name for themselves. This tower was likely a ziggurat—a structure with a square base that sloped upward. A shrine may have been at the top.

WHERE?

Babel was located in what became known as Babylon in Southern Mesopotamia, northeast of the land of Israel. In modern times, this area is in Iraq.

WHEN?

After the flood, people repopulated the earth. It’s likely that the people in this account were influenced by the idea of false gods. A ziggurat was meant to serve as a stairway from heaven to earth, uniting the people and giving them access to the gods.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY:

In this account, humans made their own plan to restore a relationship with God. But God had a much better plan to send Jesus to redeem creation and cover sin. God’s plan didn’t fit anyone’s expectations. Through Jesus, God’s redemptive plan is enough!



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is the Best

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Timothy 2:13

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: building blocks, construction site toys (such as trucks and tools, coloring utensils, play dough (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Tower of Babel Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Block Tower

Set up: Set out building blocks.

Play: Let the kids use the blocks to stack; they can make towers or other creations. Encourage the kids to see how tall of a tower they can build. When the towers come crashing down, remind kids that while we can keep building, eventually the towers we build will come down.

Play Station: Construction Site Play

Set up: Set out construction site toys, such as trucks and tools. You can also set out play dough, if available.

Play: Encourage the kids to play with the construction toys and pretend to build different things. Encourage them to build tall towers.

Play Station: Tower of Babel Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a tower they would build.

Curiosity Activity: Cup Stack Tower

SUPPLIES: disposable cups or stacking cups (lots), disposable plates (optional)

Set out disposable cups and plates, if available.

Did you know God can do amazing things? In fact, God can do anything! We can try to do a lot of great things on our own, but without God's help, we can't do much!

Let's use these cups and plates to make as big of a tower as we can. Split the group into two or more teams. Give each team a stack of cups. If you have disposable plates, you can give those to the kids too. Invite the kids to stack their cups into pyramid towers as tall as they can get them. If they have plates, they can stack the plates between the rows of cups too. To make it more challenging, make it a relay with each team lined up, and the kids can stack one cup at a time. Once they've already started working on their towers, tell them they must finish without talking to one another.

Was it harder when you couldn't talk to one another? Allow the kids to respond. **We work together better when we can understand one another. We're going to learn a story about a time when God's people worked together on a big tower, but then they couldn't understand one another. God used that to show them that we all need Him, and He is the best. We need God's help too. We'll learn today that God is the best!**

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, stacking blocks (at least 12)

WORD OF WONDER

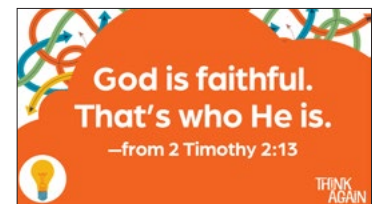
God is faithful. That's who He is.

—from 2 Timothy 2:13

Our Word of Wonder for the Think Again series is from 2 Timothy 2:13. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Open a Bible to 2 Timothy 2:13 and practice the verse with the kids.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **IS FAITHFUL**—Give two thumbs-up (one on each word).
- **THAT'S WHO**—Put your arms out in front of you, palms up (one on each word).
- **HE IS**—Point up (once on each word).
- **FROM 2 TIMOTHY 2:13**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if holding a book.



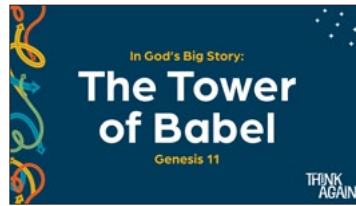
We're going to say it again, but this time, each time we say a word, we're going to stack some blocks to make a tower. We can say it several times and make the tower really big! Gather the kids around the stacking blocks and let them take turns stacking a block to make a tower while you all say the verse together. Say the verse several times to make the tower bigger.

Now that the tower is getting pretty big, let's knock it down and remember that God is bigger and better than any tower. God is better than anything. Because God is the best! God is faithful. That means we can count on Him and trust Him. Choose a kid to knock down the tower.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does faithful mean?** (We can count on God and trust Him.)
- **What are some ways that you can see God's faithfulness in your life?**

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO
Watch the God's Big Story Video as
kids eat their snacks



Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

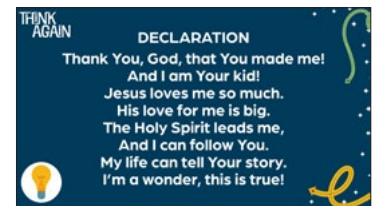
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, we love You. Thank You for loving us. It's amazing to think about how great You are. Help us learn more about why You're the best. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we're learning that we can always worship God because He's the best! Let's sing and dance and praise Him.

Play House of the Lord, All of Me and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (optional)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, tape, cardboard boxes (5; at least 1' x 1')

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God's Big Story Pictures (1 set/SG)

Before the kids arrive, print a set of the God's Big Story Pictures. Tape each picture to a cardboard box. Don't let the kids see the pictures until you tell the corresponding part of the story. If it's not too distracting for your group, have a kid stand up front with you to help build the story tower with each new picture box. Otherwise, you can stack them as you go and invite kids to stack the boxes as they pretend they're lifting a big brick and to build the tower.

Show kids the box with Picture #1 and start stacking the story tower. Tell the kids to pretend they're lifting a heavy brick and stacking it along with you.



In the beginning, God made the whole world. He made the sky and land, water, and animals. And God made the very first two people, Adam and Eve. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. That is sin. Adam and Eve's sin made God sad. Every person except Jesus has disobeyed God. People chose to do things their own way instead of God's way. They sinned and hurt each other. Only one man, named Noah, chose God's way and did what was right. So when God sent a flood to get rid of everything, God saved Noah and his family.

After the flood, God promised to never flood the whole earth again. Then the earth began to fill with people because Noah's kids had kids. But no one was following God and obeying Him. They chose to live life their own way. God was still going to need to do something to redeem, or fix, the sin problem and make things right for His people.

Show kids the box with Picture #2 and stack it on the first box. Invite the kids to pretend they're lifting a heavy brick and stacking it along with you.

At that time, all the people spoke the same language after the flood. They understood each other. They built a great big city to show how important they were. "No one can stop us from doing anything," they thought to themselves. They decided, "Let's build a tall tower that reaches all the way up to the sky!" They hoped the tower would connect them to God. They wanted to be important.

Show kids the box with Picture #3 and stack it on the tower. Invite the kids to pretend they're lifting a heavy brick and stacking it along with you.

But the people forgot something very important. They did not stop to ask God what He wanted.

God had a different plan. He knew that if they kept trying to be important without Him, they would just get into more trouble. So God said, "Let us go down and mix up their language. Then they will not be able to understand one another" (Genesis 11:6–7).

And that's what happened. They couldn't finish building the tower, so they stopped. They all moved away to live in different places all over the world.

Show kids the box with Picture #4 and stack it on the tower. Invite the kids to pretend they're lifting a heavy brick and stacking it along with you.

The city where the people worked on the tower was called Babel, which means confused, because

that's where God confused their languages. The people thought the tower would reach up to heaven and make them strong. But the tower would not make sin stop. God had a much better and greater plan to make everything new. God knew that one day people from every place in the world would worship Him.

Even though people went their own way, God still loved them. He had a special plan to make everything right again—His plan was to send Jesus!

Show kids the box with Picture #5 and stack it on the tower. Instruct kids to pretend they're lifting a heavy brick and stacking it along with you.

God wants us to follow Him and His way. The Tower of Babel reminds us that if we choose to make ourselves look important and great, we're following our own plans instead of God's. But the truth is always that following God's plan is the best because God is the best.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD IS THE BEST**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

In today's story, people made their own plan to try to fix their relationship with God. But God had a much better plan to send Jesus to forgive our sin and make us new so we can have a relationship with Him. God's plan was not what most people expected, but through Jesus, His plan is the best!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish the activity, pray with them and thank God for how amazing He is.

Let's pray and talk to God.

God, thank You for reminding us that You are the best there ever was and will be. Thank You for wanting to help us and for loving us—even when we forget and think we know best. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God was faithful to His people thousands of years ago, and He will be faithful to you too! May you always remember that God knows what's best and that He is better than the best thing. God is on your side and wants to help you do great things for Him. May you know that God loves you always!

Circle Time: Roll the Best

SUPPLIES: ball

We're learning today that God is the best. The people in today's story learned that it's important to follow God's plan. God wants us to follow Him and His way. Following God's plan is the best because God is the best.

Let's talk about some ways God is the best. There are no wrong answers. When a ball gets to you, say one reason God is the best.

Sit in a circle and take turns rolling the ball to other kids in the circle and sharing one way God is the best.

Leader Tip: Go first and offer one or two examples to set the tone. For example: God is all-powerful! God forgives our sins!

When everyone has had a chance to share, go around the circle and discuss the questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did the people from God's big story try to build?** (a tower)
- **Why do you think they wanted to build the tower?** (to be connected to God; to be important)
- **How did God get the people to stop building?** (He made them speak different languages and scattered them.)
- **Do you speak any other languages? Do you know anyone who speaks another language?**
- **Who always knows what's best because He is the best?**
- **How has God helped you with something?**

It can be easy for us to think we're the best and that we can do things on our own, but God is the best there ever was and will be. Because He is the best, God can help us! God is the best leader and friend there is, and He loves hearing us talk to Him. Let's talk to God together now and thank Him for being the best.

Make It Inclusive: If any kids in your ministry speak another language, invite them to share, or even teach, some words or phrases to the other kids.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for leading and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

Craft: First Place Prize

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 sheet per kid), scissors (prep only), hole punch (prep only), ribbon or yarn (1 length per kid), star stickers, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God Is the Best Medal \(1 per kid\)](#)

Before the kids arrive, print a copy of the God Is the Best Medal onto cardstock for each kid. Cut out the medals and use a hole punch to make a hole at the top of each one. Cut pieces of ribbon or yarn that will be long enough to fit around kids' heads, like a necklace, after they're tied.

We're learning that God is the best. This means that God should always be number one—or first place—in our lives. God wants us to follow Him and His way. The Tower of Babel reminds us that if we choose to make ourselves look important and great, we're following our own plans instead of God's. But following God's plan is the best because God is the best.

We get to make medals that can remind us to always keep God first!

Hand out the paper medals, star stickers, and coloring utensils. Instruct kids to color and decorate their medal with stickers. As kids are decorating, have leaders go around and help kids write their names on the backs and thread ribbon or yarn through the holes in the medals. Then help the kids put on their medals by tying their ribbon or yarn for them.

Encourage kids to wear their medal when they're finished and to place it somewhere special when they get home as a reminder that God is the best.



Closing Game: Knock It Down

SUPPLIES: boxes (5–10)

In the story we're learning today, we learned that God stopped the people from finishing the tower. What did God do to stop them? Allow the kids to respond. **God knew that if they kept trying to be important without Him, they would just get into more trouble. God mixed up their words so they couldn't understand each other anymore. They couldn't finish building the tower, so they stopped. They all moved away to live in different places all over the world. Let's build a tower out of boxes and then take turns knocking it down.**

Kids love knocking down towers of boxes! Make sure to take turns so every kid gets a chance. If you have a lot of kids, you may want to build several box towers so multiple kids can knock them down. Assign some kids to be the builders while the others are knocking them down when you give the signal.