



LESSON 2

THE TOWER OF BABEL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Plan Is Enough

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11

GOD'S BIG STORY: After the flood, the people choose to build a tower to reach heaven and connect with God, but they never ask Him what His plan is. So God scatters them and confuses their language—because God's redemptive plan is enough!

WORD OF WONDER: Even if we are not faithful, he remains faithful. He must be true to himself.
—2 Timothy 2:13

- Pre-Service:
 - OPTION 1 Multisensory Activity: Building Plans
 - OPTION 2 Brain Teaser: Crossing the River
- Welcome Question: What is something you've built or created that you wanted others to see?

SMALL GROUP

- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: That's Who I Praise, All of Me
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Name Above All Names
- Blessing Your Kids



SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Plan Is Enough

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11

WORD OF WONDER: 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!

LESSON 2 **ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN**

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Plan Is Enough

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Timothy 2:13

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Think Again Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, **display the Babel Welcome Question Slide** or write the following question on a whiteboard: "What is something you've built or created that you wanted others to see?" Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Greet kids with fist bumps or high fives and say their names. Make sure to connect any new kids with other kids in the room. Display and read the Welcome Question to all the kids and encourage them to think about their answers. Some kids may want to draw a picture of the thing they built or created.

At your start time ...

Call on one willing kid to share her answer to the question: **What is something you've built or created that you wanted others to see?** Once she has shared her answer, invite her to choose another kid to share his answer. Do this several times so that multiple kids get to share.

Sometimes when we do something on our own, we want others to see it and tell us how well we did. Today in God's big story, we're going to see what happened when a group of people tried to follow their own plan to build something that would make them look great.

OPTION 1 Multisensory Activity: Building Plans

SUPPLIES: cardstock, scissors (prep only), interlocking brick toys (1 pile or small container full per 3–6 kids), timer, small container (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Building Plans Cards](#) *By Request, Think Again 5-Minute Countdown Video (optional)

Ahead of time, print the Building Plans Cards onto cardstock. (If your group is larger than about 30, print multiple copies.) Cut apart the cards.

Display the Building Plans Slide and gather the kids. **Let's have some fun making building plans and then building together!** Help kids form a group of 3–6. Give each group a pile (or small container) of interlocking brick toys and one Building Plan Card. **Each of your groups has a picture of an object and a pile of interlocking bricks. You'll have five minutes to work together to create the object on your card using the bricks. You can start by talking about your plan and then start building! Ready, set, plan, and build!** Set a timer for five minutes or begin the Think Again 5-Minute Countdown Video. Circulate among the groups as they work and be available to help, if needed. At the end of five minutes, invite all the groups to show off their creations!



Make It Inclusive: Timed activities can prompt anxiousness in some kids. Consider simply removing the timer and giving kids as much time as is available to complete the activity.

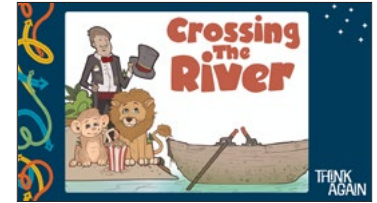
Wow! Everyone did an amazing job making plans and building their objects! Display the Babel Wonder Truth Slide. **Today in God's big story, we'll hear about a group of people who tried to follow their own plan to build something very tall and very impressive. Sadly, in all their planning, they never stopped to ask God about His plan. God's plan is always the best and enough. Today's Wonder Truth is GOD'S PLAN IS ENOUGH.**



OPTION 2 Brain Teaser: Crossing the River

SUPPLIES: paper, pencils

Display the first of the [Crossing the River Slides](#) and gather the kids together. I have a brain teaser for you all. Listen carefully as I read this scenario:

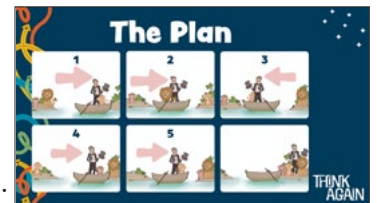


One day, there was a traveling circus man who had a lion, a monkey, and a large box of peanuts. On his way to the next town, the circus man came to a river with a small boat to cross it. The circus man could only fit one thing in the boat with him at a time. If left alone together, the lion would eat the monkey, or the monkey would eat the peanuts. How did the circus man get everything across the river safely?

Help kids form groups of 2–3. **Can your group come up with a plan for crossing the river? Work on creating a plan together.** Have paper and pencils available for groups to write or draw their ideas.

After a couple of minutes, invite small groups to share their plans with everyone. It's unlikely that anyone will have come up with the only plan that works. Still, affirm kids for their creativity and problem-solving skills!

Wow! You all came up with some very creative plans for the circus man! But there's a better plan. Let's take a look! Display the second of the [Crossing the River Slides](#).



Read the next part slowly, giving kids time to wrap their minds around the plan.

Here's the plan the circus man needs to follow:

1. Bring the monkey across the river first.
2. Return to the original side and bring either the lion or the peanuts across the river.
3. Leave the lion or the peanuts, but bring the monkey back to the starting side of the river.
4. Leave the monkey alone on the starting side of the river and bring the lion or peanuts (whichever is left) to the other side of the river. Now the lion and the peanuts are on the other side of the river, and the monkey is alone on the starting side.
5. Return to the starting side of the river and bring the monkey across the river again.

Now the circus man, the lion, the monkey, and the large box of peanuts are together and on their way to the next town.

Leader Tip: In the unlikely case that kids come up with the correct solution to this brain teaser, congratulate them but ask them to keep their plan quiet until all the other groups have had a chance to share.

Wow! That's an amazing plan, and the only one that will work! Today we'll learn about a group of people in the Bible who wanted to make themselves look important and great, so they followed their own plan and built a tall tower. The problem is that they never stopped to ask God about His plan. God desires that we follow Him and His way, and like the solution to our brain teaser, God's plan is always the best and is enough. Display the [Babel Wonder Truth Slide](#). Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD'S PLAN IS ENOUGH**.



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the Babel Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

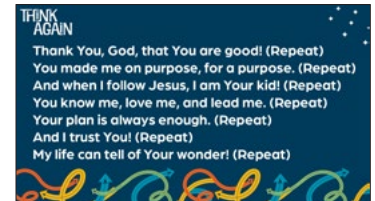
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Your plan is always enough. (Kids repeat.)

And I trust You! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, You're so good. As we learn about Your big story today, help us hear what You have to say. Help us to know and desire Your plan and to understand that it's always enough. Thank you for knowing us, loving us, and leading us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God has an amazing plan to bring His people back to Himself—His plan is Jesus! And Jesus is always enough! Let's worship God now through music.

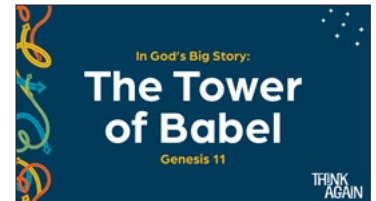
Play [Thats Who I Praise](#), [All of Me](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

[Display the Babel Title Slide](#). Explain that today's story takes place after God sent a flood to cover the earth but saved Noah's family.

Today we are learning that God has a better plan than we do. As you watch, think about why the people wanted to build the tower and how trusting God's plan leads us to something even better than making a name for ourselves.

[Watch the God's Big Story Video](#).



LESSON 2 THE TOWER OF BABEL

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), tape, balloons (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: *Story Bricks Sheets* (1 set/ LG)

Ahead of time, print the Story Bricks Sheets and cut out each brick. Clear a space on the wall near the front of the room where kids can tape all the paper bricks to the wall in the shape of a tower. Alternatively, add a little flair to the activity by taping each brick to a balloon ahead of time. At the end of the story, kids can tape the balloons together to make a balloon tower!



Allergy Caution: Be aware of any latex allergies before doing this activity.

For your reference, the following words and phrases are included on the Story Bricks Sheets: *people, tower, connect, God, strong, building, neglected, worshiping, plan, redeem, sin problem, own way, God came down, united, speak, do anything, mix up, language, not be able to understand, give them power, better, scattered, tribe, one day, worship Him.*

Gather the kids. Give one or more Story Bricks to each kid and encourage him to read the word or phrase on it. (If your group is larger than 25, give one brick to each group of 2–3 rather than to individual kids.) Older kids can help the younger kids read their words.

As I tell today's part of God's big story, you'll listen carefully for the word or phrase on your brick. When you hear it, come up and place your brick on the floor at the front of the room. If you have more than one brick, you'll come to the front multiple times. Near the end of today's story, we'll work together to create something with all the bricks. Let's get started!

The words and phrases on the Story Bricks are italicized and underlined in the script. Slow down and emphasize them as you read; then pause to give kids time to bring their bricks to the front. Encourage the older kids to help the younger know when it's their turn to bring up their bricks.

Gather the kids and begin. **In the beginning, God created the whole world, including the very first two people, Adam and Eve. Sadly, Adam and Eve chose to sin, and every person since them (except Jesus!) has chosen to disobey God as well. Cain killed his brother, Abel. Even after that, people continued to sin and do evil things. So God chose to send a flood to wipe everything out—He only saved Noah and His family. When the flood was over, God promised to never destroy the whole land with a flood again**

Even though Noah was a righteous man who walked with God, he and his family weren't perfect either. Noah's sons had kids, and those kids had kids. No one was choosing God's way and trusting that His plan was enough. Sin had not gone away. God was still going to need to do something to redeem His people—to make things right between them and Him again.

Some years after the flood, the people living on earth had their own ideas about how to restore a relationship with God. At that time, everyone spoke the same language and could understand each other. The people of the land moved to the east and decided to live there. They built a great big city, which showed how important they were.

“No one can stop us from doing anything,” they thought to themselves, and they decided to build a special tower that would reach to heaven. They made bricks and baked them so they would last, and they used tar to hold the bricks together.

They hoped the tower would connect them to God and show the world that God was on their side because He was making them strong. But in all their planning and building, the people neglected to do something very important. They never stopped to ask God how He wanted them to worship Him.

God had a different plan to redeem the whole earth. God knew that without a way of fixing their sin problem, these humans would repeat the mistakes of their ancestors. Like the people who had lived before them, they would continue to do things their own way.

While they were building the tower, God came down to see it. When He saw their city and tower, He said, “All these people are united and speak the same language. That’s why they can do all this. Now they will be able to do anything they plan. Come on! Let us go down and mix up their language. Then they will not be able to understand one another” (Genesis 11:6–7).

Leader Tip: Genesis 11:6–7 uses the plural for God. If the opportunity presents itself, share about what the Trinity is. God is one God in three persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The tower, which the people thought would reach up to heaven and give them power, would not have made sin go away or decrease evil. God had a much better plan to redeem the whole earth, so He scattered the people to different parts of the world. God knew that one day people from every tribe and language would join together in worshipping Him.

The abandoned city was called “Babel” because that is where God confused their languages.

You all did an awesome job listening for the words and phrases on your paper bricks! Now it’s time to build a tower of our own. Only instead of using bricks and tar like the people in the story, we’ll use paper bricks and tape! Let’s see how high we can build it! Work with the kids to tape the bricks to the wall to form a tall tower. Then gather the kids back together.

Wow! You all did a great job building a tall tower! Our tower, like the tower of Babel, can remind us that if we choose to make ourselves look important and great, we’ll be following our own plans instead of God’s. God desires that we follow Him and His way. And the truth is always that God’s plan is enough.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Babel Wonder Truth Slide. Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD’S PLAN IS ENOUGH**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

In today’s story, 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 was not what most people expected, yet through Jesus, His plan is enough!



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What was your favorite part of God's big story today? Choose a few kids to answer the question. Invite an adult or youth volunteer to also share her favorite part and why.

If the people were trying to connect to God, why do you think God stopped them from building the tower? Allow kids to answer freely.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: [Name Above All Names](#)

Blessing Your Kids

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: May you always know that God is with you and for you.

May you seek His plan instead of your own because His plan is enough, and through Jesus, we have all that we need!

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Blessing Your Kids