



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

- Welcome Question: What is something you've built or created that you wanted others to see?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Connected with God
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Tower of Worship
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

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

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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**

Small 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

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "**I'm curious..**" before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **Why do you think we like to do things that make us feel important?**
- **Do you think that God believes we're important because of what we can do?**



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

Even if we are not faithful, he remains faithful. He must be true to himself.

—2 Timothy 2:13 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), scissors (prep only), tape (prep only), wooden stacking blocks (17 for NirV or 14 for NIV; 1–2 sets per small group), timers (optional, 1 per small group)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Word of Wonder Words Slips NirV](#) (1 set per group)

Ahead of time, print the Word of Wonder Words Slips NirV Cut out each slip and tape it to a wooden stacking block. Make one set for each small group or two sets if kids will be racing each other. Place each group's blocks in a separate pile.

Even	if	we
are	not	faithful.
he	remains	faithful.
He	must	be
true	to	himself.
2 Timothy	2:13	

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LESSON 2 WORD OF WONDER SLIPS NIRV
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Our Word of Wonder for the Think Again series reminds us that God is always faithful to us, even when we're not faithful to Him. What an amazing, loving, and forgiving God! Let's say the verse together

now. Open your Bible to 2 Timothy 2:13.. Read 2 Timothy 2:13 several times together.

In God's big story today, the people chose their own way to get to God by building a tower. To remind us that God is faithful and that His way is enough, let's build a Word of Wonder tower.

Show kids the blocks with the Word of Wonder Slips taped to them. Invite kids to work together to build a tower that puts the Word of Wonder in order. Then read the verse together to ensure the words are in the correct order. If you have a timer, challenge kids to see how quickly they can build their tower. Then invite them to knock it down, mix up the blocks, and build it again faster than the first time!

For groups with older kids, prepare two sets of blocks and challenge kids to race one another to see who can stack their blocks in verse order faster.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Tell the kids that we can find today's part of God's big story near the beginning of the Bible in the book of Genesis. Explain that today's story takes place after God sent a flood to cover the earth but saved Noah's family. Invite the kids to turn in their Bibles to Genesis 11.

After the flood, people began to spread across the earth just as God had instructed. But in Genesis 11, they decided to stay together and build a huge tower to make themselves famous instead of trusting God's plan. God saw what they were doing and confused their language, causing the people to spread out across the earth. As you read, think about why God cared more about their hearts than the tower they were building and what this story teaches us about trusting His plans instead of our own.

Choose three willing kids to read. Have the first kid read Genesis 11:1–4, the second kid read 11:5–7, and the third kid read 11:8–9. Note that Genesis 11:6–7 uses the plural for God. Consider telling kids about the Trinity: God is one God in three persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Elementary Questions

- **What did the people build in today's part of God's big story?** (a great big city and a special tower that would reach to heaven)
- **What did God do when He saw what they were doing?** (God came down to see the tower; He mixed up their language and scattered people to different parts of the world.)
- **Who were the people thinking about when they built the tower? Who were they not thinking about?** (They were thinking about themselves and their plans for the tower to connect them to God and make them look strong and important. They were not thinking about God or His plan for them.)
- **What are ways you can think about God during your day?**
- **What is one true thing about God that you want to thank Him for today?**

As we learned today, the people had a plan. They didn't seek God in their plan because they wanted to do things their way and look important. But God invites us to follow Him and His way because His plan is enough!

Make It Inclusive: Open-ended questions can be difficult for some kids to answer. Consider modifying the questions into yes/no format or offering answer choices for each. For example, "What did the people build in today's part of God's big story? A big city, a special tower, or a big city and a special tower?"

Preteen Questions

- **Why did the people try to build a tower that reached to heaven?** (They hoped it would connect them to God and show the world how important and strong they were.)
- **What did God do when He saw what they were building? Why do you think He did that?** (God came down to see the tower, mixed up their language, and scattered people to different parts of the world. Possible answers: God had a much better plan to redeem the whole earth through Jesus, and one day, people from every tribe and language would join together in worshiping Him.)
- **Who were the people thinking about when they built the tower? Who were they not thinking about?** (They were thinking about themselves and their plans for the tower to connect them to God and make them look strong and important. They were not thinking about God or His plan for them.)
- **What are some ways you can think about God during your day? What difference do you think this will make in your day?**
- **What do you know to be true about God? If that is true about God, what does it tell you about His plan for you?**

As we learned today, the people had a plan. They didn't seek God in their plan because they wanted to do things their way and look important. But God invites us to follow Him and His way because He is always good, and His plan is always enough.

Leader Tip: For Preteens. The Foundation Building Blocks at the start of each lesson provide background about the Bible passage. Consider introducing preteens to these Foundations to help them understand the Bible in context and think more deeply about God's Word and what it reveals about Him.

Small Group Prayer Time

Give kids time to share prayer requests one at a time, inviting another kid to pray for each request that is shared. Then go around the room and have the kids share one thing they know is true about God by saying, “Thank You, God, that You are ____.” Close by thanking God for who He is and that His plan is enough.

LARGE GROUP

Elementary Responding in Worship: Connected with God

SUPPLIES: pipe cleaners (various colors, 10–15 per kid plus several extras)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: “Good God” from the [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Give each kid 10–15 pipe cleaners and ask them to set them in front of them or hold them in their laps quietly. **In God’s big story today, the people decided to build a tall and impressive tower. The people hoped the tower would connect them to God and would show others how great and important they are.** Invite kids to quietly start connecting their pipe cleaners into one, long, straight line or tower. Demonstrate this by connecting several pipe cleaners to form a straight line. When kids are finished, they can stand up to see how tall their towers are.

Invite kids to sit back down and continue: **Sadly, the people never stopped to ask God what His plan was. We sometimes do the same thing: We follow our plans without stopping to ask God what His plan is. Let’s take our towers and turn them into chains by forming each pipe cleaner into a link that connects to the next pipe cleaner.** Demonstrate by turning your pipe cleaner tower into a chain, bending each pipe cleaner into a circle and linking it to the next. **As you connect each link in your chain, I invite you to connect with God by talking with Him quietly in prayer. Remember, prayer is simply talking with God! So tell Him about something you’ve been trying to do on your own, without Him. Maybe you’re having a disagreement with a friend and are trying to figure out how to fix it. Or maybe you have a hard spelling test coming up this week and don’t know how to prepare for it. As you talk with God and make your chain, ask Him to show you His plan and to help you in that situation.** Play “Good God” from the [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids make their chains and connect with God in prayer.

When kids finish making their chains, invite them to stand and hold up their chains. **Long ago, people built a tall tower to connect with God according to their own plan, but they forgot that God’s plan is always enough! God’s plan was to send Jesus so that, through Jesus, our sins could be forgiven, and we could be connected with God forever!**

Invite kids to repeat the Wonder Truth several times together: **GOD’S PLAN IS ENOUGH.**

Encourage kids to take their pipe cleaner chains home as a reminder that through Jesus, they’re connected with God and that His plan is always enough!

Preteen Responding in Worship: Tower of Worship

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), butcher paper (about 4' long), tape, writing utensils, coloring utensils, kid-safe scissors (optional), whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional) **Wonder Ink**

RESOURCES: [Wonder Truth Bricks Sheet \(1 per preteen\)](#), “How Great Is Our God” from the [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Wonder Truth Bricks Sheet for each kid. This will provide two bricks per kid. Cut out the bricks. (Alternatively, provide kid-safe scissors and have the kids cut out the bricks during the activity.) Tape a large sheet of butcher paper (about 4' long) to a whiteboard or wall. Then set the roll of tape near the wall. (If you had kids tape Story Bricks to the wall during the Experience It! Script, consider removing those bricks and taping up the butcher paper in their place.)



In today's part of God's big story, the people built a tower that they hoped would connect them to God. But they forgot to ask God what His plan was. They thought an impressive tower would make them look great and important, but they forgot that God is great and important. They forgot to worship Him!

So God mixed up the people's language and scattered them to different parts of the world. God knew that His plan was enough and that one day, people of every tribe and language would worship Him together!

The Bible tells us in the book of Revelation about that future day: “A huge crowd of people ... stood in front of the throne ... They came from every nation, tribe and people ... They cried out in a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God’ ” (Revelation 7:9–10).

God had a better plan—a plan for the people to be connected to Him forever: His plan is Jesus! And God's plan is always enough! Rather than build a tower that shows how great we are, let's build a tower that shows how great God is!

Give two Wonder Truth Bricks to each kid. Set out writing and coloring utensils. Invite kids to fill in the blanks on their bricks with words or phrases that describe what God is like and then tape their bricks to the butcher paper to make a tower. To help them get started, consider brainstorming several attributes of God (like loving, powerful, and kind) and writing them on a whiteboard.

As kids write on their bricks and tape them to the butcher paper wall, play “How Great Is Our God” from the [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage kids to sing along.

Once all the kids have taped their bricks to the butcher paper wall, gather everyone near the wall. Together, say the following sentence one time for each brick, filling in each word that kids wrote on their bricks: **God's plan is enough because God is ____!** (If your group is very large, say this phrase just one time and invite kids to fill in the blank by shouting out their favorite description of God included on the wall.)