Wonder Ink®

Leader Prep Page

1st/2nd Grade

Sunday, November 8

FOR LEADERS

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: 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

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THE TOWER OF BABEL

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!

Welcome & Cuiriosity Question

SUPPLIES: Babel Welcome Question Slide



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. But first, it's time to be curious!

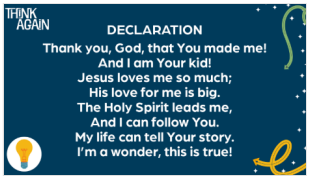
Ask the following "I'm curious" questions. Say, "I'm curious ..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one

I'm curious ...

- **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?**

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Declaration Slide



Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
Make prayer hands, then point up to God and 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").

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible Story Picture (optional)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids 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 Genesis 11:1–9 from the Bible. Show Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

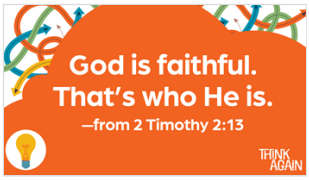
Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, Think Again Word of Wonder Slide

WORD OF WONDER

God is faithful. That's who He is.

—from 2 Timothy 2:13



Display the Word of Wonder Slide. **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.*

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?**

Discussion Questions

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.

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.

Craft: First Place Prize

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 sheet per kid), ribbon or yarn (1 length per kid), star stickers, coloring utensils, God Is the Best Medal (1 per kid)



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.

Game: Color Babble Match

SUPPLIES: colored paper (at least 1 sheet of several different colors), bucket

Ahead of time, cut the colored paper into small squares. You'll need at least two squares of each color. Place the paper squares into the bucket or basket.

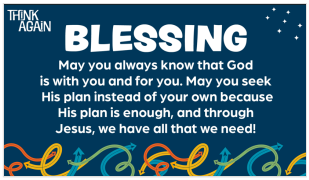
We learned about the story of God giving the people different languages and scattering them all over. Let's play a game where we'll try to understand one another when it's difficult.

Have each kid choose one square of paper from the bucket. Encourage them to not show each other what color they got. Once everyone has a paper square, tell kids that on the count of three, they're going to start walking around and saying their color out loud, over and over again. It will probably sound like a lot of babble! Then, they'll find the others who have the same color. You can do this more than once, if time allows.

Was it hard to understand what others were saying when everyone was babbling all at once? How do you think the people felt in God's big story when they couldn't understand one another? Allow the kids to respond. **Why do you think God confused the people's languages and scattered them?** Allow the kids to respond. **The people tried to be the best on their own and forgot the most important thing: God is the best! We can always remember that God is the best.**

Blessing Your Kids

SUPPLIES: Babel Blessing Slide



Display the Babel Blessing Slide. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

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!