LEADER PREP PAGE
2s/3s
Sunday, November 8th
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

LEADER PREP PAGE
2s/3s
Sunday, November 8th
FOR LEADERS

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!

Activity: Tower Time

SUPPLIES: building blocks

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome, everyone! Today we're going to hear a story from the Bible about people who started to build a tower! Do you know what a tower is? Allow the kids to respond. **It's a really tall building! Let's all build a tower using these blocks.**

Encourage the kids to stack the blocks to build a tower. Let them see how many they can stack before the tower falls down, or allow one kid to knock it down, then rebuild it.

Activity: What's the Best?

SUPPLIES: toy food, coloring utensils (several colors)

In God's big story today, we'll learn about how God is the best! He's better than any of our favorite things. He is the greatest of all!

I'm going to hold up a few different foods. If you know what the food is called, say it out loud. Then we'll all share the best food we've ever eaten.

We can thank God because of His great love and forgiveness. He forgives us when we sin, or do wrong things. The gift is forgiveness through Jesus, so we can become new on the inside.

Show kids the toy food and have kids say what each food is. Then ask kids what their favorite food is. Do the same activity but with coloring utensils. Show the kids the coloring utensils, encourage them to name the colors, and let them share their favorite color.

Out of all the wonderful things in the entire world, God is the best! Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD IS THE BEST.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD IS—*Point up.*

THE BEST—*Make two thumbs-up.*

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible Story Picture

Our part of God's big story today is about a place with a tower called Babel. Can you say, "Babel"? Encourage the kids to say, "Babel." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened in Babel!**

Use the script provided and the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction of the Bible story.

When God first created the world, everything was perfect and right. Give a thumbs-up and encourage kids to do the same. **But soon people started to make bad choices.** Give a thumbs down and encourage kids to do the same. **Years went by, and people kept doing things that were wrong.**

There were some people who thought they were the best, even though they still made lots of bad choices. They built a great big city together to show everyone how important they were.

"No one can stop us from doing anything," they thought. Then the people decided to build a special tower that would reach to heaven. Can you pretend you're building a tower? Encourage kids to pretend they're building. **The people thought they knew best and didn't think they needed God's help.**

When God saw the tall tower that these people were building, He said, "Let us go down and mix up their language. Then they will not be able to understand one another" (Genesis 11:6–7).

Suddenly, the people couldn't understand each other. Can you make babbling baby noises? Babble like a baby and encourage kids to do the same. **The people got mad and went to other parts of the world. The city they left was called Babel because that is where God made it hard for them to understand each other.**

God knew that one day people would come together again—but in His best timing! The people forgot the most important thing: God is the best! We can learn from this and remember He is the best!

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 or Video, if using. **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

- **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.*

Prayer and Blessing

Tell the kids to point up when you say, “God,” to give a thumbs-up when you say, “best.” Do these actions as you pray as well.

God (point up), **thank You for reminding us that You are the best** (thumbs-up). **Thank You for loving us—even when we think we know best** (thumbs-up). **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: May you always remember that God knows what’s best and that He is better than the best thing. God wants to help you do great things for Him. May you know that God loves you always!