LEADER PREP PAGE
PreK/K
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

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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!

Play Stations (or save for the end of class to fill time!)

SUPPLIES: building blocks, coloring utensils, Tower of Babel Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

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.

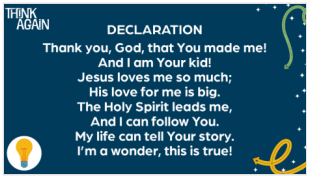
- **Play Station: Tower of Babel Coloring Sheet**

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.

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Early Childhood 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”).

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.**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible Story Picture\

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.

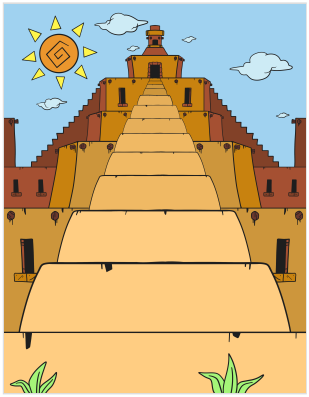
I open my Bible and what do I see? *Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*

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 the God's Big Story Script provided or read Genesis 11:1–9 from the Bible. You can print the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT



SUPPLIES: Bible, tape, cardboard boxes (5), God's Big Story Pictures

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.

Watch God's Big Story

Watch The Tower of Babel God's Big Story Video! and worship available on the computer.

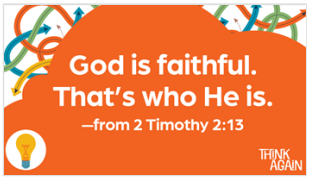


Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, stacking blocks (at least 12), 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.*

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?**

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.

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.





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!