

Bible Story 5: TOWER OF BABEL

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 11:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: "I WILL PRAISE YOU, O LORD, AMONG THE NATIONS; I WILL SING OF YOU AMONG THE PEOPLES." PSALM 108:3 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

In our world, people live in different countries and speak different languages. The Bible story of the Tower of Babel explains how it all began.

After the flood, God commanded Noah's family to multiply and scatter throughout the whole earth (Genesis 9:7).

Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Each son's descendants increased in number and became clans. These clans increased until they were known as nations. Everyone spoke the same language. As people moved eastward, they arrived and settled in a plain in Shinar. They began to make bricks and used them along with tar for mortar to build, instead of stones.

One day, they said to one another: *"Let's build a city with a tower that reaches upward to the heavens. We will be famous and we will not have to disperse, moving over the whole earth."*

God saw what was happening and

did not like their actions and attitude. God's plan was to spread the people over the whole earth that he had created. He had told Noah's family to do this, but the people disobeyed. They had not even asked for God's direction about the plan of building the city nor did they dedicate that place to God. How could they have peace and unity without the presence of God?

Therefore, God confused their language, and the people began to speak in different languages. There was a lot of confusion, because no one understood what the person next to him/her was saying. So each person began to find others who spoke the same language as he did and they all grouped themselves together accordingly. One group couldn't understand the language of the other group. With so much confusion, the groups of people abandoned the construction of the city and scattered, moving in different directions around the world. The name of the city that was abandoned was called Babel.

LIFE-LESSONS:

1. God ordered the people to scatter over the whole earth. The people did not obey God and, for that reason, they began to have confusion and problems. Disobedience brings confusion and problems. Obey God.
2. At that time, all of the people of the world spoke only one language! To scatter the people to all parts of his earth, God created the different languages. People continue to speak in different languages. Today we need to seek to live in harmony with people who speak different from us. God loves all the people of the world (John 3:16a).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did God tell the people to do after the flood?
2. Why did the people begin to build the city and the Tower of Babel?
3. What was the reaction of God?
4. What happened to the people and the construction of the city and Tower of Babel?
5. Today, what are some consequences that happen when people disobey God?
6. Why does disobedience bring problems?
7. What are some languages that the people speak in the world today?
8. What are some of the languages that people speak in your neighborhood? In your church? In your work? In your school? In your state? In your country?
9. How does God want us to treat people who speak different from us? Why?
10. What are specific ways we can help those who speak other languages?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions) and available resources, time and space.

PRIOR TO TELLING THE STORY:

– Show several pictures of people from different dialects within your country and/or languages in different countries. Explain how the sounds may be different or the same. One word may be spelled the same and/or sound the same, but it may have a different meaning.

Suggestion: Teach some words, music or a Bible verse in another dialect or language, such as: English, French, Spanish, etc.

– Ask: “Where did the different languages begin?” Then tell the Bible story in your own words, expressing the sentiments of the story.

VISITOR:

– Option 1: Invite a person from another country to visit your group and, if possible, ask him/her to dress in clothes from his/her native land. Let the visitor talk about customs and teach some words, games, music, etc. from native country.

Suggestion: Contact a school to see if they have an exchange student who could come and speak.

– Option 2: Invite someone who has traveled in different parts of the world to share experiences, pictures and souvenirs.

GAME: “PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD”

– Put up a map of the world.
– Cut out figures of different people around the world. Give each person one of these figures. Blindfold one person with a cloth or towel, and then turn him/her around. That person puts the figure on the map. Repeat the process with each one. The closest figure to its country wins.

MUSIC:

– Listen to music from different cultures/countries.

SNACK OR DINNER:

– Option 1: Decorate your place with items represented from a particular country or place items around the room from different countries.

– Option 2: Prepare a snack or a meal from a another country. Let individuals in your group help prepare the food. (Examples: together make a fruit salad from South America or a taco meal from Mexico.) If possible, use the eating custom of that country. (Examples: chop sticks, sitting on the floor, etc.)

– Option 3: After the snack or dinner, play games from another country.

MOVIE EXCERPTS:

– Show excerpts of different movies from different countries and then discuss their customs, languages, etc. Libraries, tourist agencies and consulates from different countries are excellent resources.

GAME: “SCAVENGER HUNT”

– Prepare a scavenger hunt in different locations inside and/or outside. After everyone arrives at the destination, have a snack.

BIBLES:

– Option 1: Give a translation of the Bible to different ones in their own language.

– Option 2: Give the Bible that has English on one side and their language beside it. It is an excellent way to learn English and read the Bible in their language.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 108:1-5; Psalm 66:1-2,4; John 3:16

| 1 ST | 2 ND | 3 RD | 4 TH | 5 TH | 6 TH | 7 TH |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Genesis 11:1-2 | Genesis 11:3-4 | Genesis 11:5-6 | Genesis 11:7-9 | Psalm 108:1-5 | Psalm 66:1-2, 4 | John 3:16 |