

## Unit 1, Session 5: The Tower of Babel

**Big Picture Question: Who is God? God is our Creator and the King of everything.**

**Memory Verse: Psalm 104:24– How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

**Christ Connection: People ignored God’s plan and tried to make a name for themselves, so God confused their language and scattered the people all over the earth. One day, Jesus will gather together all of God’s people—people from every tribe and people who speak all kinds of languages—and they will worship Him (Revelation 7:9-10).**

### **Bible Passage: Genesis 11**

Find the passages together in your Bibles and read through them together. You could also read the paraphrase of all these passages below in blue. For younger kids, you may want to just read the bolded portions.

After the Fall, all people have been born into sin. Because of our sin-nature, we cannot help but consistently rebel against God. The account of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 is one of legacy and language. Man has been given a second chance to walk with God, but it doesn’t go well. Sin continues to spread from one generation to the next as people multiply on the earth. And, just as before, people seek to satisfy selfish interests instead of glorifying God with their lives.

Language is a powerful tool and, in the mouths of self-focused sinners, it begets powerful consequences. “At one time the whole earth had the same language and vocabulary” (Gn 11:1). After settling in Shinar, they dabbled in architecture: “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth” (Gn 11:4). At first glance, this doesn’t seem so bad, but the implications are sinful. God commands mankind to “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it” (Gn 1:28; 9:1), so the attempt to remain in one place is disobedient. Additionally, making a name for themselves seeks to glorify man’s work above God. God’s response to this is punitive but purposeful. By confusing the people’s language and scattering them, they are prohibited from participating in greater sins and they are better able to fulfill God’s original command (Gn 11:5-8). Sin doesn’t just happen to us; we choose it. From the very beginning, people have volitionally rebelled against God—it is our nature. Left to our own devices, our legacy is one of sin, rebellion, and destruction. We need something greater than a name we build for ourselves. The pattern of sin that persists throughout history reveals that we are in need of a Savior—the One name under heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

**After the great flood, God told Noah and his sons to grow their families and fill the earth.** Noah's sons and their wives had children, and all their families grew. **Over time, the people traveled through a valley and decided to live there.**

**At this time, everyone in the world spoke the same language. The people said, "We don't want to be scattered all over the earth. Let's build a city with a tower so big that it touches the sky. The tower will make us famous!"** Then we can stay here together instead of spreading out over the earth."

**The people were not doing what God had told them to do. They wanted to be as important as God. They wanted to say, "Look how great we are," instead of "Look how great God is."** They wanted glory for themselves instead of God. But God is greater than anyone. God created people to worship Him and give glory to Him alone.

**The people made bricks out of clay and baked them in the fire to make stones. Then they used the stones to start building the tower.**

**God came down to look at the tower. God said, "If they are doing this as one people all having the same language, they will keep thinking up more bad things to do. We need to stop them."**

**So God mixed up the people's words.** Instead of everyone speaking the same language, everyone spoke different languages. **When people tried to make plans, they could not understand what other people were saying.** If one workman said, "Hand me another brick," nobody else knew what he wanted.

**The people had to stop building the city. God made it so the people did just what He had told them to do after the flood: They were scattered all over the world. The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel.**

**If you or your child have questions about what it looks like to follow Jesus in salvation or baptism, Pastor Sam would love to talk with you! Please feel free to contact him at [siever@lenexabaptist.com](mailto:siever@lenexabaptist.com).**