

The Tower Of Babel

Genesis 10:8-10; 11:1-9

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 25:11b

And He will bring down their pride together with the trickery of their hands.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A book with pictures of famous monuments.

A variety of boxes from home (cereal, snack, cracker, detergent, etc.), construction paper, glue, scissors, and crayons or markers.

As many lumps of self-hardening clay in sealed baggies as the number of children in your class.

Wood or cardboard blocks or playing cards.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Famous Monuments

Bring a book to class with pictures of famous monuments (the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty, the great pyramids, the sphinx, or monuments from the United States or Europe). Explain how each of these monuments were set up to remember a “great” person, city, nation, or culture. Discuss whether these are prideful expressions.

LESSON TIME!

Today, we are going to learn the story of the Tower of Babel. In our story, we will discover that **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble** (James 4:6). In this important lesson, we are going to learn about pride, disobedience, and humility. Our story takes place after the flood. At first, there was only Noah and his family, but the earth was quickly re-populated again. The people were not spread out over the earth, but they lived in one general area, a land called Shinar.

GENESIS 10:8-10

Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD."

And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Here we see a man named Nimrod, who was the king of Babel. Now, this man is believed to have been a very evil man, but the Bible only tells us that he was a mighty hunter. He became a rebel, disregarding God's law. Sadly, most of the people in the world at that time followed this man. He was the founder of the earliest world power, later to become the world empires of Babylon and Assyria. These nations, over time, became strong enemies of God's people, Israel.

We must look at our own lives. Do we follow our friends even when the way they are acting or the things they are doing is displeasing to the Lord? Does their influence cause us to disobey the Lord? We must be careful whom we follow. What about what we watch on television or the movies? Although we read in the

Bible that we are to obey and honor our parents, do we watch programs that show kids rebelling, lying to, or talking back to their parents? Who are we following? Jesus is the only one we should follow.

Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24). Jesus wants to bless us and protect us and give us peace and joy. Let us choose to humbly follow Jesus, put others before ourselves, and not get "puffed up." As we do, God will give us grace. Remember **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

GENESIS 11:1-4

Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

In these verses, we see the inhabitants of the earth coming together in the plain of Shinar saying, "...let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." In Genesis 1:28, God told Adam to be "...fruitful and multiply: fill the earth and subdue it..." And in Gen. 9:1, God told Noah to "be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." The people of Shinar were in direct defiance to what God commanded Adam and Noah.

Anybody who thinks they can defy God and get away with it is very mistaken, as we will find out in this story. This was a very proud people; they wanted to build a tower whose top reached the heavens and make a name for themselves. They wanted to come to God in their own power and strength, with their own understanding. They wanted to do things their way and not God's way.

Blinded by pride, they believed that they were building something good enough to approach God. They wanted to make a name for themselves. Think about it! The desire to make a name for ourselves is spawned by pride. God calls us His children and that should satisfy us completely. **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

Box Tower

Bring a variety of boxes from home (cereal, snack, cracker, detergent, etc.). Let your students cover the boxes with construction paper and draw or write things that represent pride (bragging, superior attitudes, excluding others, false humility, selfishness, etc). Have your class build a tower with the bricks they have made, and of course, knock it down when they are done.

GENESIS 11:5-9

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

"Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Now we see that the Lord "...came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men built." Is it not ironic? Man has built this great tower that will "reach the heavens," yet the Bible says God came down to look at it. Whatever we attempt in our flesh (in our own strength) to do in order to reach God will always fall short. The work Jesus did on the cross is the only thing that buys us the privilege to come boldly into the throne of God.

As God observed their pride, He knew that they would attempt to do whatever they thought they could do. Perhaps, they wanted to replace God and become "godlike" by building a tower into the heavens. Instead of giving glory to the name of God, they wanted the glory themselves.

God went down and confused their languages, so they could not understand one another. Just think if that happened in your school; every person would speak a different language--your teachers, your friends. It would probably drive you crazy. How could you learn anything? What could you accomplish?

God scattered them abroad over the face of the earth. What they would not do in obedience, God did in judgment; He greatly humbled them. The place was called Babel, because the Lord confused the language of all the earth. The Bible teaches "whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23:12). **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

Memento of a Monument

Give each child a piece of self-hardening clay in a sealed baggy. Instruct your children to make a brick shape out of the clay. With the end of a paper clip, have your students etch "Proverbs 16:18" on their bricks to remind them "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

What does this story teach us? Pride is an ugly thing; God cannot tolerate haughtiness. Pride is something that we often times cannot see in ourselves; others see it in us. We must remain humble, seeing ourselves as what we are--dust. **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

It is God who gives us talent, gifts, abilities, and beauty. He created us and is responsible for our worth. The Bible says, "For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?" (1 Corinthians 4:7). When we

look at ourselves in this light, we cannot get puffed up and proud, thinking we are more important or special than other people. May we examine our hearts everyday for **God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.**

Build Your Own Tower

Let your students build their own towers with wooden or cardboard blocks, or even playing cards. Allow them to discuss how they feel about their towers. Ask them to describe how they would feel if their towers were knocked over by someone. Have them try building towers with partners and discuss whether this is easier or more difficult. Remind the children to never do things in life out of pride; but rather, submit to the Lord in all things. **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be humble before the Lord. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.