



1st & 2nd

Unit 2: A Broken World

Story 5.A - Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

INTRODUCTIONS - Introduce yourself and consider having students do the same if you have children new to the group. Fill out the top of the Roster and take attendance.

BIBLE TIME - Have kids open their bookmarked Bibles (**Genesis 9**).

Read 9:1

What did God tell Noah and his family to do once they left the ark? (Have many children and fill the earth with people.)

Think about the word 'fill.' Let's look at what it means to fill something.

*Use the paper plate and colored puff balls to illustrate the word 'fill.' First put a few balls in the middle of the plate and ask if it has been filled. When the kids tell you that you need more, stack more on top of the first ones and ask again if it has been filled. Continue adding and asking until they tell you that the puff balls need to be spread out in order to fill the plate or until you've added all of the balls. Spread the puff balls around the plate to show that God is asking both to increase in number as well as to spread out.

What would all of the people need to do in order to do what God told them? (They would need to spread out on the earth.)

Read Genesis 11:1

How many languages were spoken during this time? (one)

How many languages do you think people speak now? (around 7,000)

What are some things people use language for? (to talk about what they think, how they feel, give directions on what to do...)

Do you think having only one language made it easier or harder for people to talk to each other? (easier - people could understand each other easily)

Read 11:2-3

Where did all of Noah's descendents go to make their home? (to the east to a valley in Babylon)

What did they use to make their home? (They made bricks and used tar.)

The bricks make the walls and the tar glues them together. Answer these questions about bricks and tar. Are they:

- Heavy or light? (heavy)
- Strong or weak? (strong)
- Easy to move or hard to move? (hard)

Would a house built of this be good protection from wind, rain, animals, other people? (yes)

It seems like this is a pretty wise material to build a city out of doesn't it? What did God tell them to do that it doesn't seem like they're planning on doing? (God told them to spread out and fill the world, but they are making strong houses that will last a long time. They aren't planning on spreading out.)

Read 11:4

What kind of a tower did they want to build? (one that reaches the sky)

Having a really tall tower would help them to 'make a name for themselves.' What does that mean? (They would be famous.)

Who were they trying to impress, God or people? (They wanted to impress people. If they wanted to impress God, they would have done what He told them to.)

When you want people to think you're better than others, what do we call that? (pride)

What had God told them to do? (fill the earth)

What did they decide to do instead? (stay together to build a great city to prove how wonderful they were instead of showing how wonderful God is)

Preview Next Week: This week we learned about how God told Noah's descendents to fill the earth, but instead they decided to defy him and stay in one place to build a very tall tower. Next week, we'll see how God responded to their defiance with wisdom and grace instead of punishment.

ACTIVITY: TOWER RACES - Split the kids up into groups of 3-4. Give each group a bag with 30 popsicle sticks in it. Tell them that they will race to finish their tower by using all of the popsicle sticks. The tower has to be able to withstand wind. When the groups are done, have them blow on their tower to show that the wind cannot knock it down. The winner is the first to build a tower that stands or the tallest tower. Have them count the popsicle sticks and return them to the bags for the next group.

MEMORY VERSE - Practice the verse together using one of the activities on the Memory Game List.

Unit 2 Memory Verse: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." ~1 John 1:9

PRAYER

Ask the group if they have any prayer requests before leading the kids in prayer.

COMMUNITY & SNACK TIME

Hand out snacks, and water. This is an intentional time to create a sense of community within the group. Sit at the table with the kids, ask the question of the day, and encourage conversation as they eat. If you have extra time, consider playing one of the community building games from the list.