



## 3rd & 4th

### 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.' What does it mean to fill something? Is something filled if it is all clustered together, or does it have to be spread out? (In order to be 'filled', something must be covering the entire container, and there can't be empty places without the item.)

How does this relate to what God told Noah and his family? In order to 'fill the earth' what would they need to do? (They would need to multiply by having a lot of children, and they would have to spread out over the earth.)

We are all descendants of Noah. Do you think that the earth has been 'filled' yet? Are there places on the earth without people? (Even though there are likely over 8 billion people, there are still places that don't have people living there. For example, some islands are too remote for people to live on them and some mountains are too high for people to live there. It is true though that most of the earth has had people living there at some time.)

#### **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 descendants 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)

How long do you think it takes to make bricks and then use them to build many houses? Is it a quick and easy thing to use? (They chose a very hard material to work with. It would take them much longer and be a lot of work.)

Based on the materials that they chose to use, how long do you think they were planning on staying in this valley? (Likely a very long time. They were taking the time to make very strong houses that would last a long time. You don't do that if you are planning on moving soon.)

It seems like this is a pretty wise material to build a city out of doesn't it? However, 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 it doesn't seem like they aren't planning on spreading out.)

#### **Read 11:4**

What kind of a tower did they want to build? (They wanted to build one that reached 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? (He told them to fill the earth.)

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

#### **\*Optional Extension: Read James 4:10**

How does James say that we should be 'lifted up'? (He tells us to be humble in front of the Lord, so that He can lift us up.)

How is this different from what the people were doing as they built the Tower of Babel? (They were prideful instead of humble and were trying to lift themselves up.)

**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: JENGA TOWER-** Play a group game of Jenga. Build the tower by layering 3 blocks in each row, alternating their direction each layer. Then, take turns removing blocks from the middle layers of the tower, carefully placing each block on top the same way you built the tower. The player who topples the tower loses!

**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.