

Lesson 40 - The Tower of Babel

Aims

- * To learn how the different languages of the world came to be
- * To learn to put God first

Materials

* Stories:

Nimrod and the Tower of Babel
Genesis 11:1-9

* Visual aids:

pictures to illustrate Nimrod and the Tower of Babel
large coloured picture of the Tower

* Materials for activities

Wood blocks, lego pieces or cardboard boxes
a dot-to-dot picture
Sandpaper, glue, scissors, coloured A4 paper, white paper

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
2. Nimrod & the Tower of babel
3. Discussion
4. Activities - build a tower, dot-to-dot picture, speaking activity
5. Review the aims
6. Prayer

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1) Introduction

There are many different languages in the world today. Once upon a time every one spoke the same language. Today's story is about how the different languages of the world came to be and what happened when people put themselves first instead of God.

2) Nimrod and the Tower of Babel

In the previous lesson, we learned about the flood that destroyed the Earth. Noah and his family were the only people protected. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Including their wives, there were only eight people remaining after the flood.

Ham had a son named Cush. When Cush grew up, he had a son named Nimrod. Nimrod was a very strong man and a mighty hunter. The people looked up to Nimrod because of his strength. They saw

him as a leader and a hero. Nimrod defended the people from wild beasts. Nimrod did not obey God. But the people admired him, and they followed his example. He taught the people to worship the sun and snakes, rather than God. Noah was still alive, and he obeyed God. Noah tried to warn the people, but just as before the flood, they would not listen.

Nimrod planned and organized the building of a very tall tower. He wanted to make a tower that would reach the heavens. It was a temple for the people to worship the sun. Nimrod was rebelling against God. People liked this project. They worked very hard, and it soon became the most important thing in their lives. It was easy for the people to work together because they all spoke the same language.

God did not want this to happen. He wanted people to obey Him. The people forgot the flood, and they forgot God. If the building of this tower continued, God knew that the people would become as evil as they were before the flood. God caused the people to speak different languages. This caused them to break into separate groups. They could no longer work together to build this tower. There was confusion. The building stopped.

Those who spoke the same language moved in groups to different parts of the world to start over. This very tall tower built to worship other gods was called the Tower of Babel. The word Babel means confusion.

3) Discussion

Why did the people want to build a tower? - *to make a name for themselves*

How high did they want to make the it? - *to reach the heavens*

Why was God not happy with the tower? - *People had forgotten God and only thought of how important they were*

Why did God change their language? *to stop them building the tower*

What does Babel mean? - *confusion*

What does the word pride mean? - *It has two meanings: 1) to have too high opinion of your own importance. 2) a feeling of satisfaction that comes from your own achievements*

Why is the first kind of pride a problem? - *It separates us from God*

Why should we put God first? - *God knows what is best for us and wants to us to be good and happy children. When we put God first He can help us in many ways. When we forget God it is easy to think only about ourselves and become very selfish*

How can we put God first? - *We need to study and obey God's word. For children it also means learning what parents teach us and obeying them.*

4) Activities

There are several activities to choose from:

- 1. Build Towers with Blocks, lego or boxes*
- 2. Tower Building Contest*
- 3. Sandpaper Tower*
- 4. Hello in different languages*

5. *Speak garbled words*

6. *Tower of Babel picture to colour*

7. *Dot-to-dot picture*

5) Review the lesson aims

* To learn how the different languages of the world came to be

* To learn to put God first

6) Prayer

* Say a prayer to ask God to help us to put Him first and to learn from the story not to be too proud of ourselves.

Nimrod and the Tower of Babel

The flood destroyed the Earth and Noah and his family were the only people protected. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Including their wives, there were only eight people remaining after the flood.

Ham had a son named Cush. When Cush grew up, he had a son named Nimrod. Nimrod was a very strong man and a mighty hunter. The people looked up to Nimrod because of his strength. They saw him as a leader and a hero. Nimrod defended the people from wild beasts.

Nimrod did not obey God. But the people admired him, and they followed his example. He taught the people to worship the sun and snakes, rather than God.

Noah was still alive, and he obeyed God. Noah tried to warn the people, but just as before the flood, they would not listen.

Nimrod planned and organized the building of a very tall tower. He wanted to make a tower that would reach the heavens. It was a temple for the people to worship the sun. Nimrod was rebelling against God.

People liked this project. They worked very hard, and it soon became the most important thing in their lives. It was easy for the people to work together because they all spoke the same language.

God did not want this to happen. He wanted people to obey Him. The people forgot the flood, and they forgot God. If the building of this tower continued, God knew that the people would become as evil as they were before the flood.

God caused the people to speak different languages. This caused them to break into separate groups. They could no longer work together to build this tower. There was confusion. The building stopped.

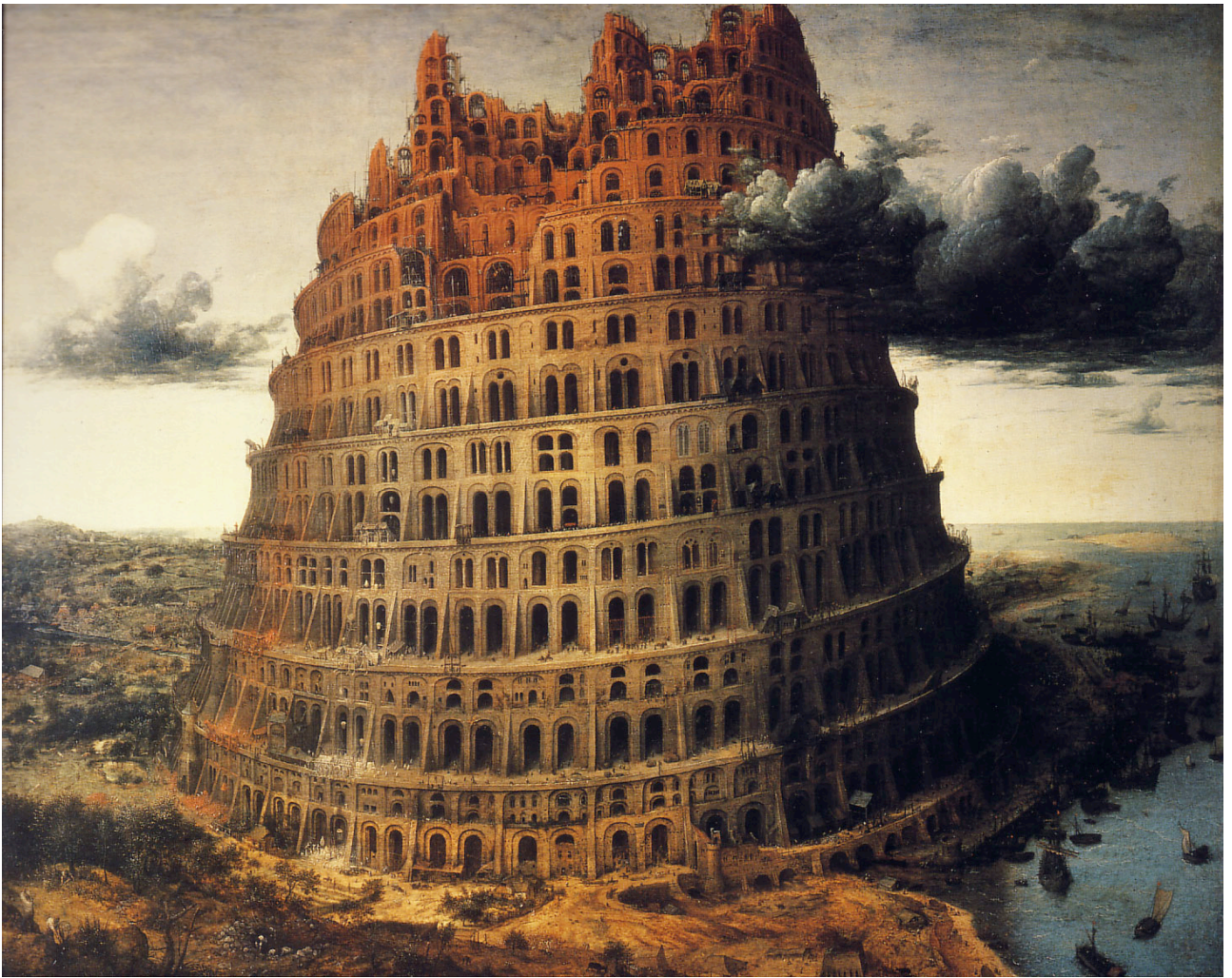
Those who spoke the same language moved in groups to different parts of the world to start over. This very tall tower built to worship other gods was called the Tower of Babel. The word Babel means confusion.

Bible Story - Genesis 11:1-9

(New International Version)

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.



Nimrod was a very strong man and a mighty hunter. The people looked up to Nimrod because of his strength. They saw him as a leader and a hero. Nimrod defended the people from wild beasts.



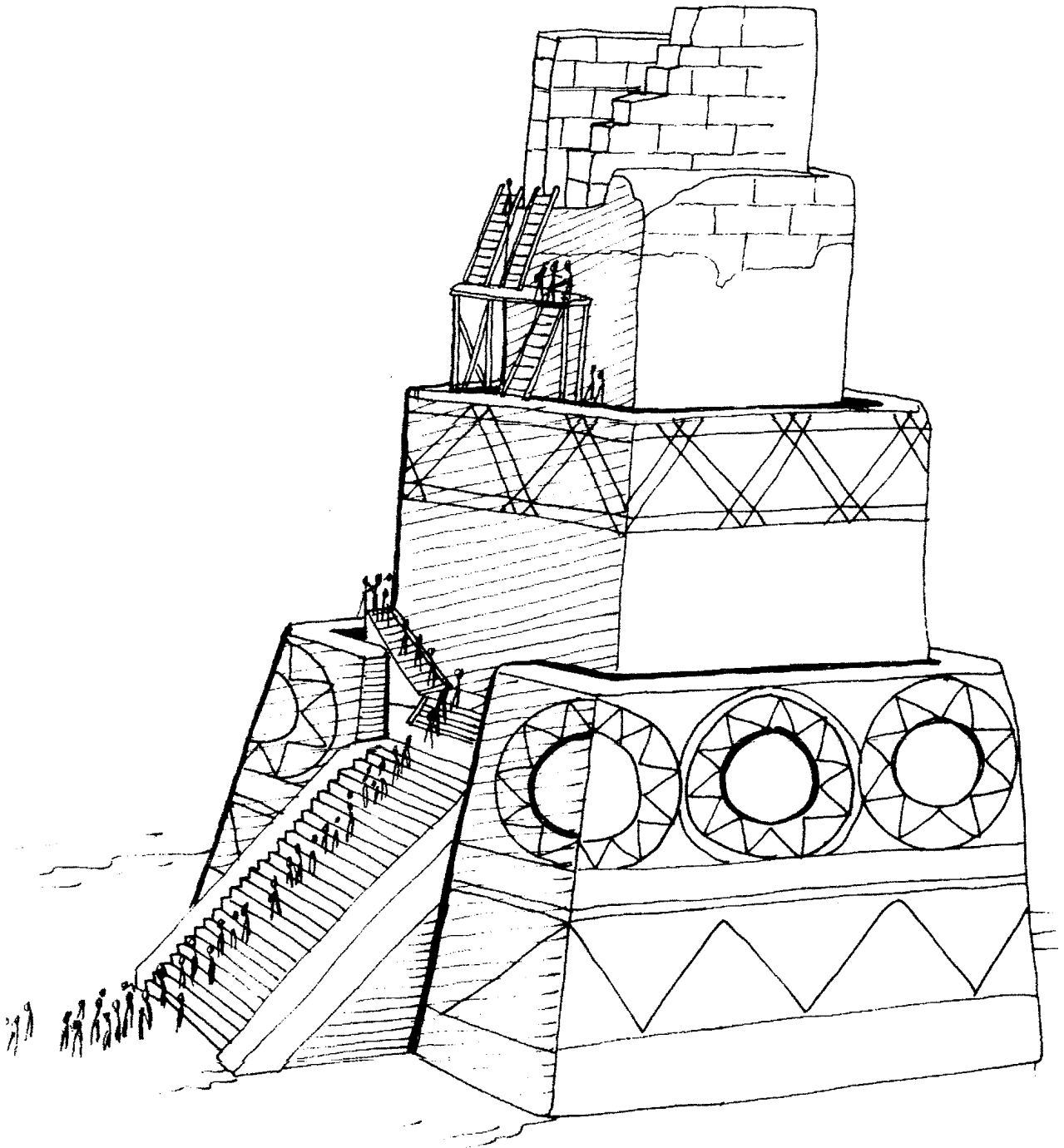
Nimrod did not obey God. But the people admired him, and they followed his example. He taught the people to worship the sun and snakes, rather than God.



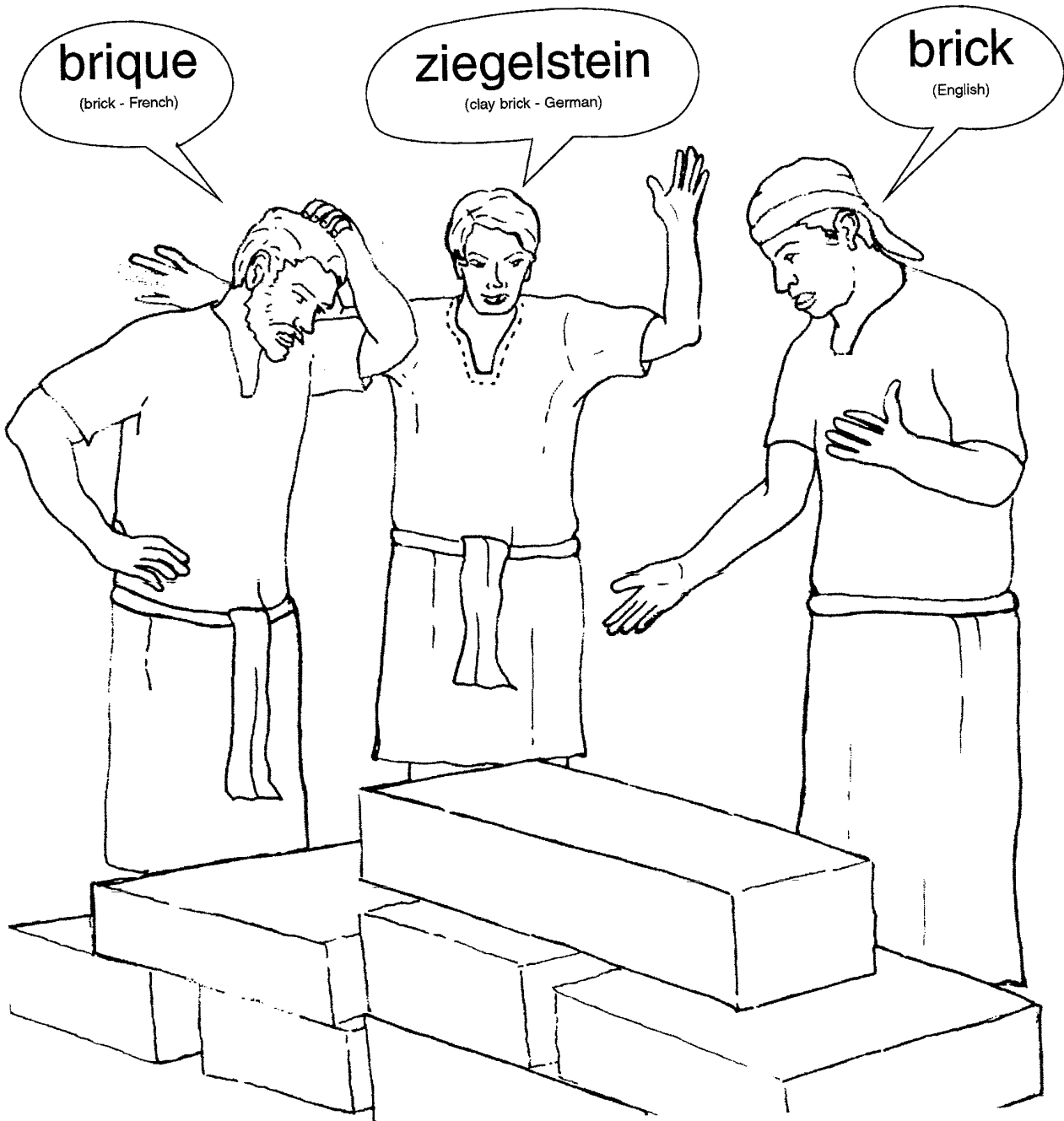
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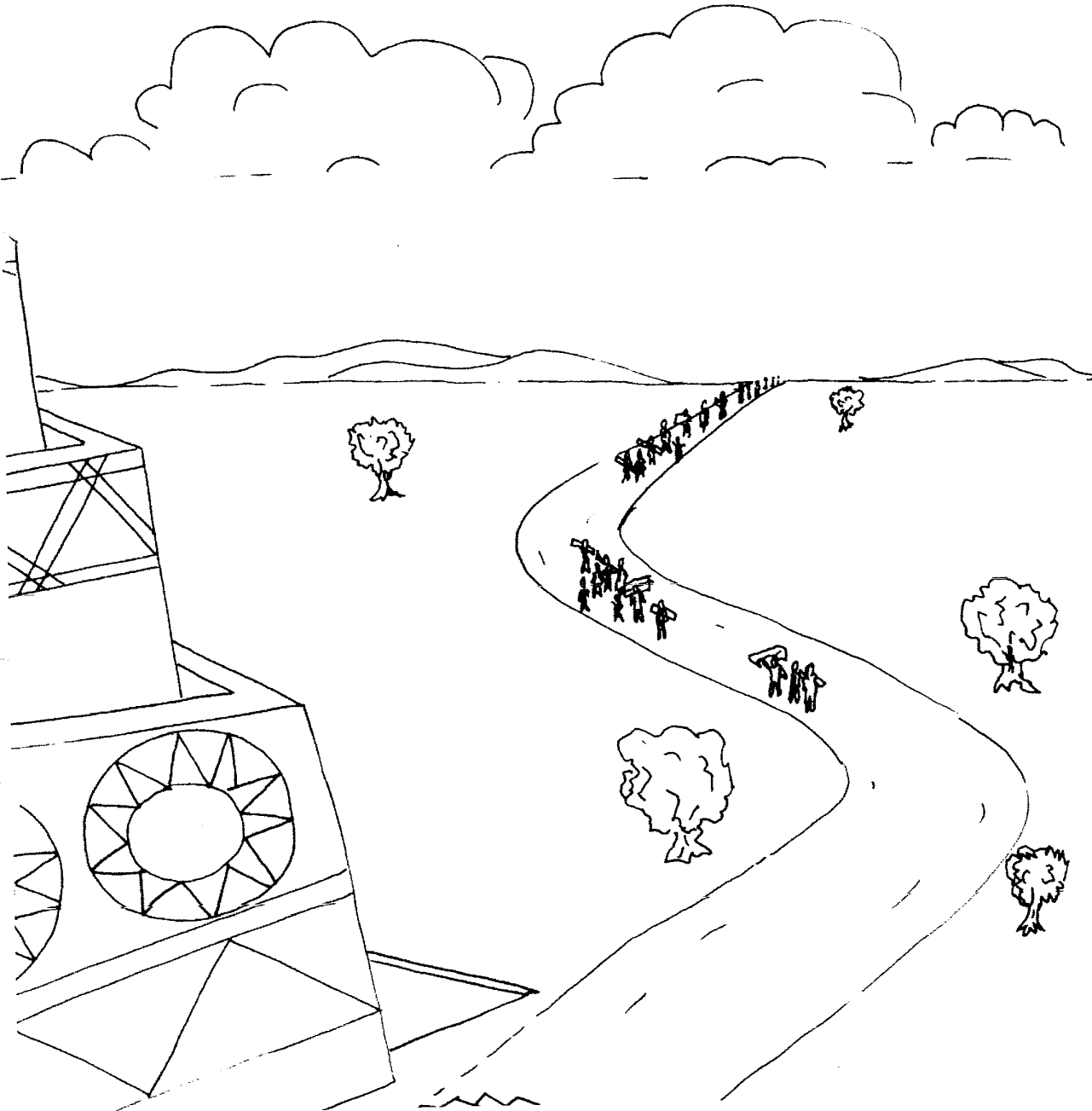
God did not want this to happen. He wanted people to obey Him. The people forgot the flood, and they forgot God. If the building of this tower continued, God knew that the people would become as evil as they were before the flood.



God caused them to speak different languages, so they could not understand each other. This caused confusion. Babel means confusion. This is why it is called the Tower of Babel.



Because they couldn't understand each other, they could no longer work together and stopped building the tower. Those who spoke the same language moved to different places around the world.



Tower of Babel Activities

1. Build Towers with wooden blocks or lego

Divide your children up into groups of twos or threes. Give each group equal amounts of blocks. See which table of children can build the tallest tower in 3 minutes. Comment about the children who are working well together to build their tower. After three minutes, measure the towers to see which group has build the highest tower. Then mix up the children into new groups and play again.

2. Tower Building Contest

Divide your class into groups of two or three children. Give each group the same number of blocks (big cardboard bricks work the best). When you say, "Go!," all the groups have to build their towers as big as they can before it falls down. When that happens, switch teams around and have a new set of kids working together to play again. There is no real winner in this game. It just helps emphasize teamwork.

3. Say Hello in different languages

Teach the children how to say hello in different languages. Here are some examples with their pronunciation.

- * French – Salut (sal-oo)
- * German – Hallo (hail-o)
- * Spanish – Hola (ola)
- * Italian – Ciao (chow)
- * Chinese, Mandarin – Ni Hao (Nee ha-oh)

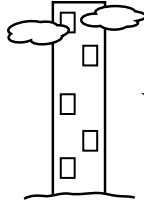
4. Speak garbled words to each other

Let the children see how it must have been when everyone started speaking other languages. Let them speak garble to each other so that only they know what they are saying. It will seem like chaos. Talk about what it must have been like for the people. Share how this is why we have so many languages now. Because of this, people scattered all over the world speaking their new language

5. Sandpaper Tower

Use square pieces of sandpaper and paste onto coloured A4 paper. Cut out clouds from white paper and stick onto picture.

6: Dot-to-dot picture



When the people try to build a tower to the heavens, God halts their progress.

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Old Testament Lesson #6 • Genesis 11:1-9

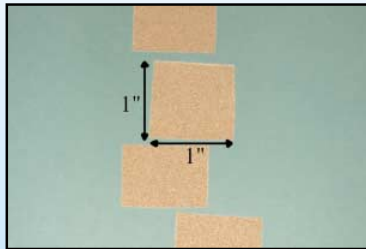
SANDPAPER TOWER

This Tower of Babel is made of sandpaper and decorated with markers.

Items Needed

- White construction paper
- Construction paper – any color (1 piece per child)
- Scissors
- Sandpaper (approx. 1 sheet per child)
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks or other

Be creative! Decorate the tower or try felt or foam instead of sandpaper and cotton balls for clouds.



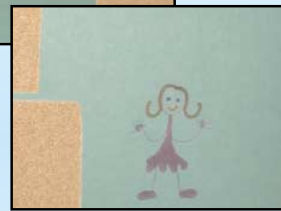
Step 1



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5

Directions

1. Cut sandpaper into about 1-inch squares; each child will need about 8.
2. Give each child a piece of construction paper, any color.
3. Glue on sandpaper squares to make a tall Tower of Babel to the top of the paper.
4. Cut out and glue clouds around the top of the tower.
5. Draw little people at the bottom so the tower looks really tall.

This craft is designed to be made with adult help and supervision. Some of the material can be prepared beforehand for easier assembling by the children.



The Tower of Babel

Colour the picture

The Tower of Babel

