

People Build a Tower at Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

Like those who built the Tower of Babel, adults are often guilty of self-seeking motivations. These motivations may be masked outwardly by good intentions, but privately many adults are seeking their own fame, glory, and accolades. Use this lesson to show the damage of putting our own desires and glory before God's.

LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Problem Solved <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Attempt to solve problems through modern advances.	paper, pens	
2 Bible Exploration	Tower to Nowhere <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Read the passage, consider self-seeking motivations, and try to build a tower despite challenges.	Bibles, index cards, pens	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point

We put God first.

Key Verse

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Adults will reprioritize motivations or tasks that they've put before God.

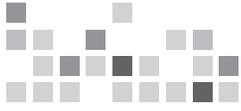




LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Strong Tower <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Consider God-seeking motivations, and try to build the tower with additional tools.	Bibles, index cards, pens, tape	
	A Place for God <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Consider things that are priorities in their lives, and push them aside to pray about putting God first.	paper, pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Discuss how to apply God’s Word.	Adult Handbooks or 1 copy per person of the “Digging Deeper” handout (at the end of this lesson)	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to dig deeper into the lesson all week long.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Problem Solved Supplies

paper
pens

1 GETTING STARTED

Problem Solved

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Greet everyone warmly as they gather. Say: **In the past century the human race has made dramatic technological advances. Many people believe that as we share information and build upon what we have learned, our progress will eventually allow the human race to solve all of its problems.**

Ask for some examples of the world's problems (such as hunger, war, homelessness, and poverty).

Form three groups.

Say: **Pretend that we're all attending a world-concerns conference. Each group represents a different area of human advancement. Each group will have five minutes to prepare a report detailing how it believes its efforts could eventually contribute to solving the world's problems we just named.**

Assign the following groups:

Group 1—science and medicine

Group 2—technology and education

Group 3—government and social welfare systems

Bring the groups back together after five minutes. Then introduce each group, and ask a reporter from each group to share the report.

Talk With Adults ■■■■

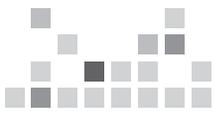
Lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- **What was it like seeking to solve the world's problems with human advances?**
- **How was this activity similar to what's really happening in our world?**
- **How successful do you think the human race will be in solving the problems of the world?**
- **Do you feel the advances we've made are positive and helpful to mankind? Why or why not?**
- **Are there areas where science and technology can go too far? Explain.**

Say: **The belief that the human race is self-sufficient isn't new. Today we're looking at a time in the Bible when people tried to build the tower of Babel. We'll discuss how God fits into the realm of human achievement and seek to answer the question: How do ► WE PUT GOD FIRST as we accomplish earthly tasks?**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Tower to Nowhere

What You'll Do

Have adults form groups of four. Distribute several index cards to each group, and make sure everyone has a pen and a Bible. Say: **As you read through Genesis 11:1-9 with your group, note any self-seeking motivations. Write each one on a separate index card. When you finish reading, think of more self-seeking motivations people have today, and write those, too. Then work together to make a stacking card house as many levels tall as you can get it.**

Allow time for reading and building. When people begin to build, do what you can to disturb their structures. For example, shake the table they are building on. Or if they're building on the floor, walk by really quickly to create a breeze that knocks it down. Make sure no one gets very far in their building. After several minutes of failed building attempts, gather everyone back together.

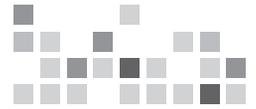
Talk With Adults

Lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- **What message were the people in this passage sending to God about their relationship with him?**
- **What challenges did you face as you tried to build your tower?**
- **Tell about a time your own efforts weren't enough for success.**
- **How does our society parallel the one at the tower of Babel? Cite examples and explain.**

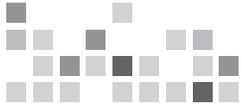
Say: ► **WE PUT GOD FIRST** in everything we do. When we don't, we'll often find our plans ultimately fail just as the tower of Babel did. Self-seeking motivations only get us so far. But God-seeking motivations give any task a sense of purpose. Let's make sure we're focusing on God in the tasks we do.



Tower to Nowhere Supplies

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Bibles
index cards
pens





Strong Tower Supplies

Bibles
index cards
pens
tape

A Place for God Supplies

paper
pens

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Strong Tower

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have everyone remain in their groups of four. Say: **We've considered several motivations that are self-seeking, such as the pride the tower of Babel builders had. Now let's consider motivations that are God-seeking, that help us put God first.**

We'll look at our Key Verse to begin our inspiration. Have everyone find Deuteronomy 6:5, and ask someone to read it aloud. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Say: **Now think of God-seeking motivations inspired by that verse, or others you can think of. Write each one on an index card, and rebuild your tower. This time, you can also use tape to make your tower secure.** Allow about 10 minutes for people to build tall towers.

Talk With Adults ■■■■

Lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- What were some differences between building this tower and building your self-centered tower?
- Why are our efforts more lasting if God is our motivation?
- Which God-seeking motivation can inspire you this week, and why?

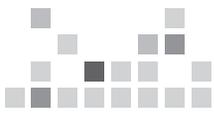
Say: **If the people at Babel had wanted to build a tower that demonstrated God's glory, and they'd committed it to God in prayer, things might've worked out a lot differently. But they only sought their own glory and independence. The fact is, we need God in order for our efforts to matter in the long run. When ► WE PUT GOD FIRST, we'll find that our efforts make a lasting difference.**

A Place for God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute paper and pens. Have everyone spread out as much as possible. Say: **Think of things that are priorities in your life. Write each one on a piece of paper, crumple it up, and set it in front of you. Then push the papers aside to make space in front of you, take a kneeling posture if you can, and pray that God would help you place all of those priorities below him.** Allow about five minutes for individual writing and prayer.





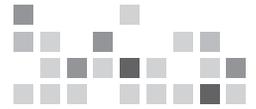
Talk With Adults

Lead everyone in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways do other priorities seem to demand more attention than God?
- How would the things you wrote benefit if you put God first?
- What can you do to clear space for God this week?

Say: ► **WE PUT GOD FIRST.** And that means making room for him above all the other things that demand our attention. This week, let your relationships and responsibilities be led by a desire to serve God. Honor him in a way the tower builders failed to do. Put him first, and see how everything else falls into place.



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: In this session, we've seen why ► **WE PUT GOD FIRST.** Let's think about how we can make God our top priority this week.

Have participants turn to the Daily Challenges section of their Adult Handbooks, or distribute the "Digging Deeper" handouts. Have everyone read the Daily Challenges and choose at least one to do this week. Have participants each turn to a partner and say what challenge they'll do this coming week and share the specifics of how they plan to do it.

Weaving Faith at Home

Say: If you have kids in Sunday school, they should have a take-home paper from this week's lesson to show you. It has their Daily Challenges for this week and ideas for weaving faith at home as a family. Please help your kids follow through with their Daily Challenges. If you don't have kids in Sunday school, you can still use your own Digging Deeper page to further reflect on putting God first this week.

Close with prayer, asking God to help shape the priorities of each person so that he is first in their actions and motivations.

Daily Challenges Supplies

Adult Handbooks or 1 copy per person of the "Digging Deeper" handout (at the end of this lesson)



People Build a Tower at Babel—Genesis 11:1-9

► **Bible Point**—We put God first.

Key Verse—“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

DIGGING
DEEPER



Talk Topics

- Do you ever find yourself going through a day without even thinking about God? What do you think about that?
- How does going unnoticed or unappreciated make you feel? Compare that with what it's like for people to take credit for God's work.
- Considering who God is and what he has done, what kind of attitude and attention does he deserve?
- Talk about advancements in communication, transportation, and technology in the last 50 years. Name one benefit you're thankful for. Discuss new dangers or evils that have come from this progress. Discuss how Genesis 11:6 might apply to people today.

Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week.

- **Check your motivations.** Really consider why you do the things that you do, and commit to doing them for God's glory rather than for self-focused reasons.
- **Before each new task you do this week, ask God to help you.** Rely on God rather than your own abilities, and see what happens.
- **When you pray this week, repeat the prayer activity in which you push aside your other priorities to focus on God first.** Even if you just do that mentally, it will help you remember to give God first place.

Through the Week

Use the following passages and questions to explore additional biblical insights about God's rightful place.

Monday—Proverbs 18:10

- In what way is God like a strong tower? Compare God's power with the tower of Babel.

Tuesday—2 Chronicles 14:11

- How can you rely on God, rather than your own strength, to accomplish the things you need to do today?

Wednesday—Psalm 127:1-2

- What does it mean that your work is in vain if you're not doing it through God's power? In what ways do you need to commit your work to God?

Thursday—Job 5:8-12

- If you really believe God is in control the way these verses describe, how does that impact your life?

Friday—Psalm 40:5

- Why is there nothing that can compare with God? What can you declare about God's work in your life?

Saturday—Exodus 20:2-3

- What “gods” have you put before God in your life? What do you need to change to honor God as the true Lord of your life?

! **OK**
■ **TO COPY**

