

## Lesson 5



# THE TOWER OF BABEL

GENESIS 11:1-9

## GOAL

- ▶ To help children understand that we cannot be successful apart from God. For our lives to be truly successful, we must depend upon God, not our own personal or collective strength.

## GOSPEL HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ In this story, God confused the languages of the earth so that they could no longer communicate with each other. Later, after Jesus ascended into heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13). Each of them was empowered to speak the wonders of God in a foreign language. In this way, through Jesus, God brought back together all that He had dispersed at the Tower of Babel.

## CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Builders:** The people who lived in the area that gathered together to build a tower to their own glory. Their actions were in direct defiance of God's commands.

## WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Babel:** In this passage, "babel" means to confuse or confound. We remember this story as the Tower of Babel because God confused the languages of the builders.

## MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Philippians 4:13:** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.



MEMORY  
VERSE  
MEANING



This lesson reminds us that apart from God, our best efforts will not succeed. However, this memory verse reminds us that with Christ's strength, anything is possible. In Christ, we can do all things we are called to do!

OVERVIEW



**Read Genesis 11:1-9:** Following the flood, God commanded people to multiply and populate the whole earth (Genesis 9:1). The people, who all spoke the same language, decided to do the exact opposite. Wanting to stay close together, they built a great city and then began construction of a massive tower that would be a symbol of their power and make a name for themselves.

In response to the people's rebellion, God confused their languages so that they could no longer communicate with each other. What was once a single language now became many, making cooperation impossible. God then enforced His original command in Genesis 9:1 by scattering the people across the earth.

SUGGESTIONS



### Building Games

1. Give each person a stack of paper cups and see who can build the tallest tower. Remember the wider the foundation the taller the tower can be!
2. Play Jenga or just build a tall tower with the Jenga blocks, Legos or other blocks. Then knock it over like God did!



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** Where did the people begin settling?

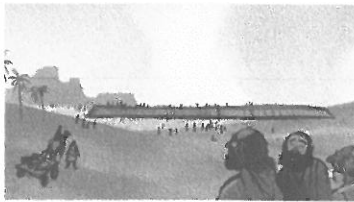
**A1:** The people began to settle in Babylon.

**Q1b:** If you could move to any city in the world, where would it be and why?

**Teacher Notes:** Let students answer. The people living at the time of this story chose this area because they could grow crops and be with other people.

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### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did the people living in this area decide to do?

**A2:** They decided to build a city and a huge tower that would reach up to Heaven.

**Q2b:** Would you rather live next door to your best friend or in a city in another state?

**Teacher Notes:** It would be much easier to see our best friend if we lived next door to each other. This is pretty much what the people living in this area thought. Living near other people would make it easier for them to trade, they would have people nearby that they could be friends with, and together, they could offer each other protection. Even though God had told the people to multiply and populate the entire earth, the people decided that they didn't want to do that. They were disobeying God.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** As the people began to rely on their own power, who did they forget?

**A3:** The people forgot about God.

**Q3b:** Why did God see the people's ability to take care of themselves as a bad thing?

**Teacher Notes:** Being able to take care of ourselves is not a bad thing. God gives us all of the skills and talents required to live a good and successful life. The problem God saw growing in this community was that they were starting to take credit for their ability to take care of themselves. They had forgotten who gave them those abilities. Forgetting God and their growing independence quickly led to them disobeying God by not going out and populating the whole earth.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What did God do?

**A4:** He began to confuse their language so they couldn't understand each other.

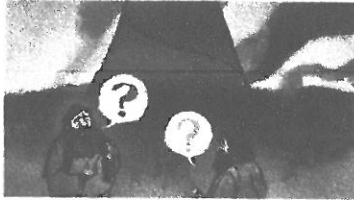
**Q4b:** Is it okay to speak more than one language?

**Teacher Notes:** Absolutely! In fact, speaking more than one language can be very helpful. The reason God confused their speech was to get the people to do as He commanded. The people separated, left the city, and populated the whole earth. There is nothing wrong with speaking more than one language. Without people who can speak foreign languages, how would we spread the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ? If we can't understand each other, then we can't help to lead others to God.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** How did the people group together as they left the city?

**A5:** They grouped together with those who spoke the same language.



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

**Philippians 4:13:** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

**BIG IDEA**

We should recognize our dependence on God and be thankful for His provision.

**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

Dear God, thank You for creating languages. Thank you that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Help us to depend on You, not on ourselves. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

# TOWER OF BABEL

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ANSWER KEY

### Across

3. With God's plan fulfilled, we came to have different nations, languages and **(Races)**.
5. God created his plan to **(Scatter)** his people over all the earth.
7. God saw the people's aggressive urge to be **(Independent)**.
8. What did God change to confuse all the people? **(Language)**

### Down

1. The people thought their tower would make them safe and **(Famous)**.
2. The people decided to build a tower that would reach to where? **(Heaven)**
4. After the flood, the people settled in a land called what? **(Babylonia)**
6. Who did the people forget to rely on when building their tower? **(God)**

# TOWER OF BABEL

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



# TOWER OF BABEL

## Genesis 11:9

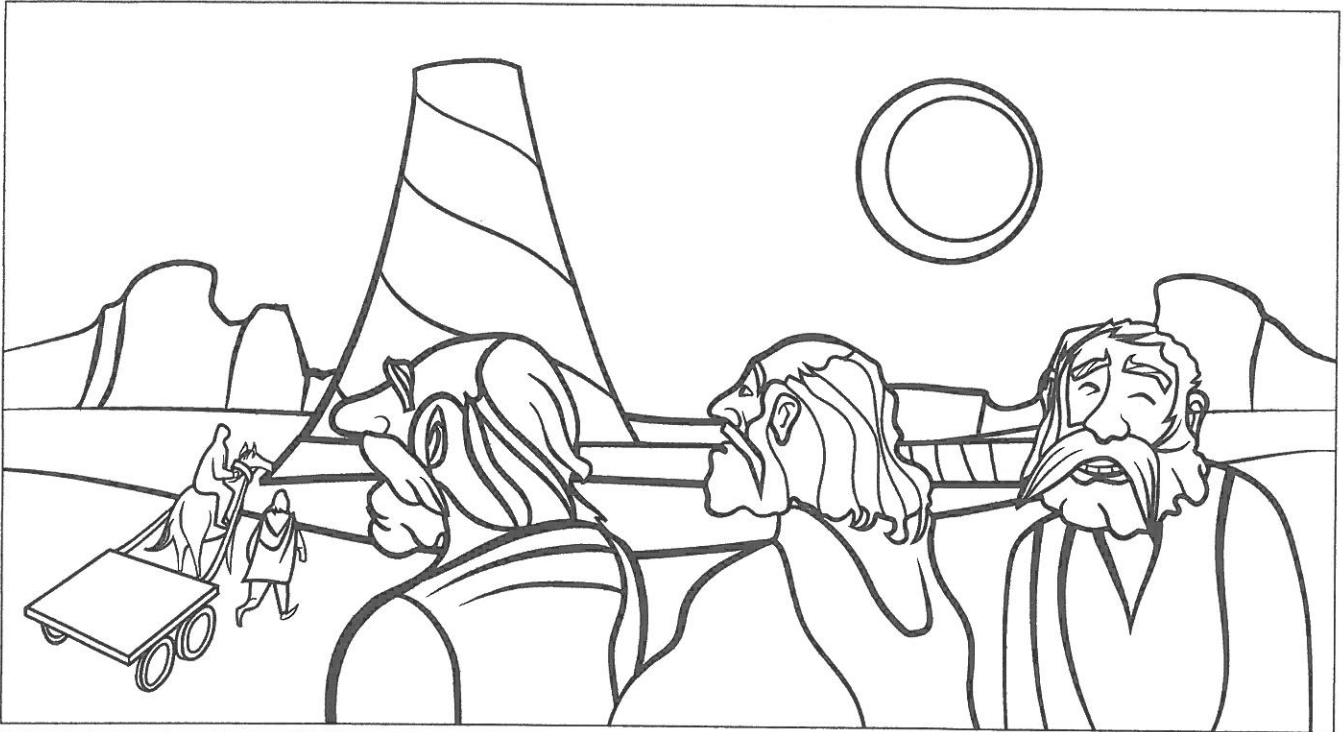
Therefore its name was called Babel,  
because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth.  
And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.





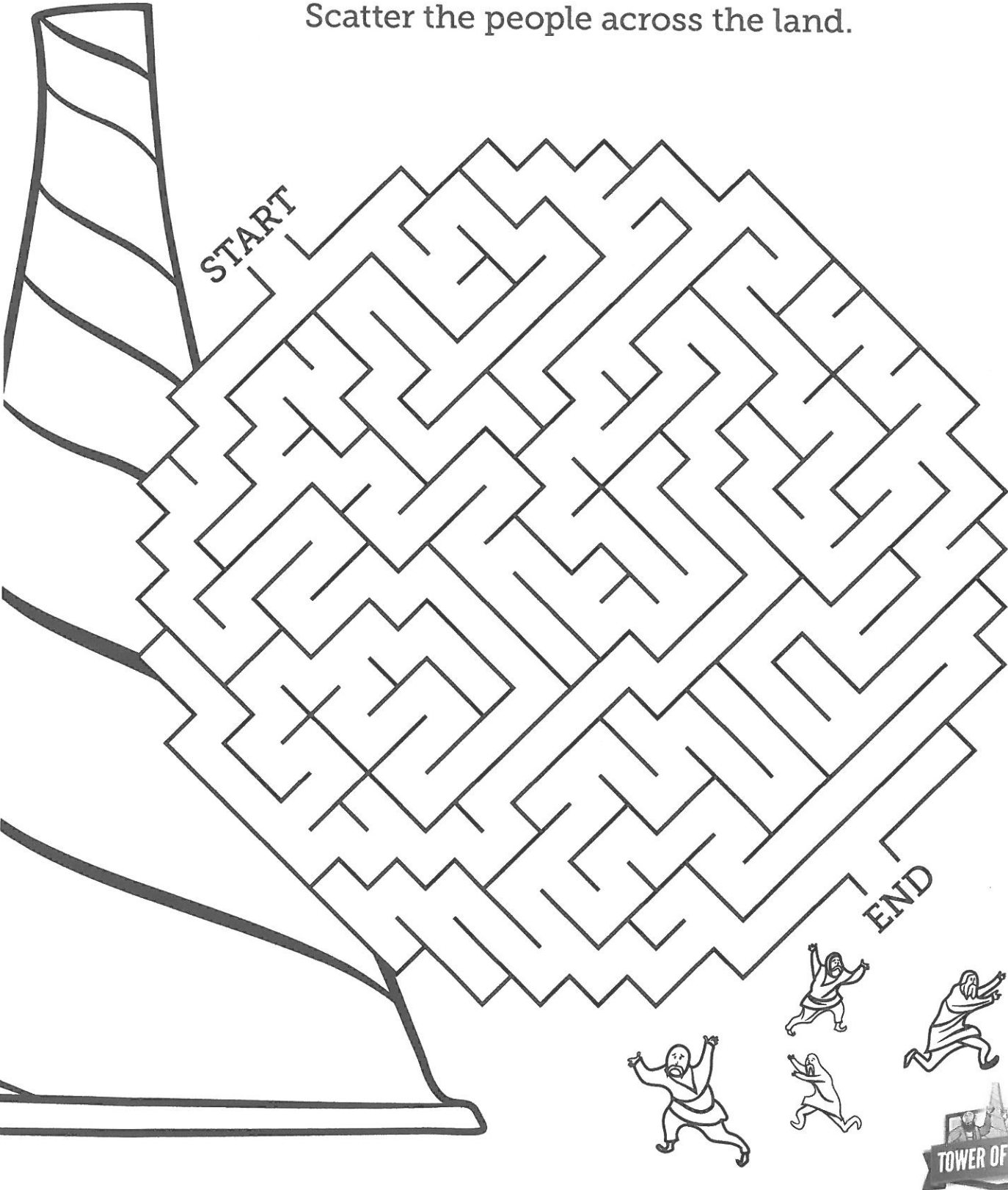
# TOWER OF BABEL

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



# TOWER OF BABEL

Scatter the people across the land.





# TOWER OF BABEL



Discover the hidden words.

L	Y	X	S	O	B	F	C	R	Q	D	N	A	Z	B
E	A	C	F	P	K	U	P	C	A	O	U	K	V	A
F	O	N	O	H	B	Z	I	Q	K	C	M	P	K	B
T	L	O	G	N	U	F	O	L	R	N	E	J	Y	Y
N	M	O	A	U	F	H	R	Z	D	W	W	U	H	L
T	E	E	O	Z	A	U	W	C	Q	L	E	F	V	O
M	O	W	B	D	O	G	S	G	O	D	L	A	W	N
X	U	K	S	R	Y	W	E	I	T	B	V	A	W	I
S	C	A	T	T	E	R	M	X	O	A	E	L	E	A
Q	Q	S	H	E	R	D	D	F	A	N	I	V	E	V
I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E	Q	V	S
B	E	O	U	G	N	N	Y	F	E	E	H	Z	I	C
E	K	X	V	H	N	H	E	A	V	E	N	K	F	J
S	Q	X	G	T	O	W	E	R	L	E	E	I	L	Y
E	S	A	J	P	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	N	V	G

## Word Bank

NATIONS  
SCATTER  
TOWER  
HEAVEN

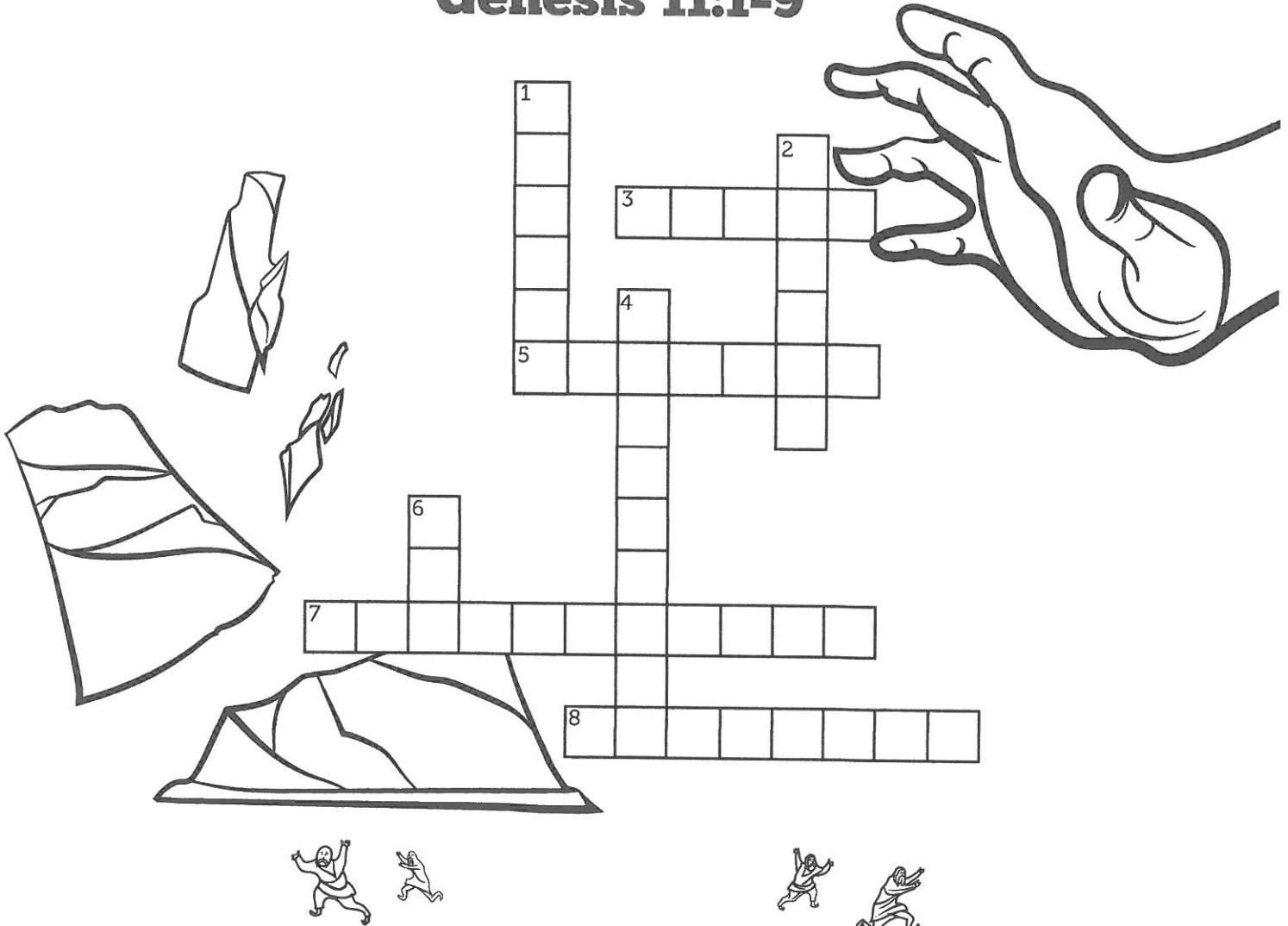
BABYLONIA  
LANGUAGE  
CONFUSION  
RACE

GOD  
INDEPENDENCE  
FLOOD  
BUILD



# TOWER OF BABEL

## Genesis 11:1-9



### Across

3. With God's plan fulfilled, we came to have different nations, languages and \_\_\_\_\_.
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