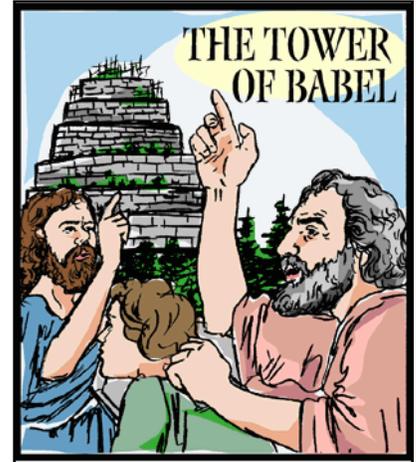


Art Workshop: Creation Station

Bible Text: Genesis 11:1-9 NIV, and Acts 2:1-42

Memory Verse: *“I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”*
Joel 2:28 NIV

The Art Workshop will focus on the The Tower of Babel
Story: Genesis 11:1-9



Overview: Students will learn how the descendants of Noah became prideful and decided to build a tower with its top in the heavens to make a name for themselves. God intervenes and the people are scattered. Students will make their own brick and write the memory verse on it as reminder to put God first in their lives.

Supplies:

- Oven bake clay – Sculpey clay found at Craft Stores
- Air Dry Clay might be an Option and be able to go home with students the same day.
- Clay Tools: (Borrow from Preschool) Rolling pins
- Sharpie Permanent Markers - Fine point markers are critical
- Toothpicks/Nails - for making designs on the brick
- Copy of Memory Verse for all to see
- Bibles
- Pencils

Advance Preparation:

- Read the scripture passages and Bible background.
- Be familiar with the Rotation Objectives
- Watch the Video Bible Study: www.GloriaDeiKids.org
- Familiarize yourself with both art projects

Opening:

Welcome students and make introductions.

Pray:

Dear Lord. Thank you for watching over us, loving us, and guiding us. Help us to put you first in our lives and to do your work in the world. Amen.

Say:

We're going to make some bricks today, but first let's learn a bit about the story. What do you know about The Tower of Babel? (Accept answers.) Pass out a piece of clay to each student and let them be working it in their hands. Let's do some review and find this story in the Bible while you get the clay ready.

Ask:

The Bible is divided into how many parts? (Two)
What are those parts? (The Old Testament and the New Testament)
How can you tell the two apart? (The OT is about the time before Jesus was born. The NT is after Jesus is born.)
Which part of the Bible do you think this story takes place in? (OT)
What are the names of the first five books of the OT? (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

Say:

There's a special name for these first five books. Sometimes they are called "The Books of Moses". They are also referred to as the "Pentateuch". penta = five and teuch = book or scroll (pronounced: two-k)

Let's review the order, or chronology, of "The Books of Moses" and see where the Tower of Babel fits in.

Review:

What is the first story in the Bible? (Creation)
After Creation came Noah and (they should all say "the flood.")
Good. Let's repeat them together:

- Creation
- Noah and the Flood

Who remembers what's next? (Tower of Babel)

Repeat all:

- Creation
- Noah and the Flood
- Tower of Babel

Who remembers what's next? (Abraham and Sarah)

What did God promise to Abraham?

- Your descendants would number the stars.
- Land (The Promised Land)
- To always be Abraham's God and the God of his descendants - that's us!

Repeat all:

- Creation
- Noah and the Flood
- Tower of Babel
- Abraham and Sarah

Continue on adding the following: (This should all go quickly: 1-2 minutes.)

- Abraham and Sarah had “Isaac”
- Isaac had “Jacob and Esau” - Jacob wrestled with the Lord and his name was changed to “Israel” meaning “he who wrestles with the Lord.” This is why his descendants are called the Israelites.
- Jacob (Israel) had 12 sons and who was his favorite? (Joseph)
- Joseph’s brother sold him into slavery and he ended up in? (Egypt)
- Joseph became second in command. There was a famine and ALL of Joseph’s family - the Israelites moved to Egypt.
- 400 years passed and the pharaoh forgot how awesome Joseph was and became afraid of the Israelites and made them slaves.
- Who did God send to lead the Israelites out of Egypt? (Moses)
- What did God give to Moses on Mt. Sinai? (The 10 Commandments)
- After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, who did God have lead the Israelite people into the Promised Land? (Joshua)

Say:

Please find Genesis 11:1-9 in your Bible.

Read the text now and talk about the history noted here as students are working on their brick. (See: “Activity” Below.)

Remember this story comes after Noah and the Flood. When Noah’s family left the ark, they built an altar and gave thanks to God. God set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise to never flood the Earth again.

Through the sons of Noah, the post-flood world repopulated itself. From Japheth, Shem, and Ham, seventy nations emerged. These seventy nations would become the descendants of the modern day nations of the world and laid the foundation for the biblical setting of the Old and New Testaments.

Noah’s youngest son, Ham, separated from his two brothers and it’s from this line that Ham’s grandson, Nimrod, oversaw the building of the Tower of Babel. He also built several other cities including Nineveh, made famous many centuries later by Jonah. Nimrod rebelled against God. Abraham is a descendant of Shem.

Ask: What do you think the people of Babel thought when 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”? (Accept answers.)

Show them a picture of what the Tower of Babel probably looked like. Other people in those days (Babylonians, Sumerians) built these towers to use in the worship of their gods. Their towers were called ziggurats and a ramp or staircase wound around them on the outside. They were usually a square or rectangular pile of clay bricks, seven stories high. In the book of Genesis, however, the Tower of Babel is a symbol of man’s desire to become God’s equal.

Making a name for themselves was a way to rebel against God. By building a tower up to heaven the people were saying they were like the one true God. That they could get to heaven by building a tower. (We know that you can’t get to heaven by building a tower. It’s through God’s grace that we are saved because Jesus died on the cross for us and rose again three days later - on Easter.)

After God had them speaking in different languages construction of the tower halted. Why do you suppose construction halted? What do you think the people did when they heard the different languages? What does the Bible say happened?

Here’s another way to ask some questions that might be better for younger learners:

Ask them if they think it was a good idea to try to build a tower up to heaven. Is it possible? Was it prideful? Did they think that they were as good as God? Was God happy? What did God do?

In other workshops, you will or may have already learned about the story of Pentecost. (Pente = five.... in this case, 50 days after Easter.) Languages are an important part of this story as well. Here, the disciples all speak the same language, and people from all over the region (who speak different languages) have come to worship in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit empowers the disciples and they are able to speak to the people in their native languages. They are able to tell the people about Jesus and God’s love so that they understood. Imagine hearing about Jesus for the first time. 3,000 people became believers in God that day and were baptized. Pentecost is known as the birthday of the church because of this. In this story language is used to spread God’s Word throughout the world to all people. What do you remember about the first time you heard about Jesus?

Review the memory verse:

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people." Joel 2:28 NIV

Ask:

What might it look like when God's Spirit is poured out on people?

How has God's Spirit been poured out on you?

How was God's Spirit poured on the people of Babel?

How was it poured out on Pentecost?

Activity:

Review that the tower was built of bricks made from the soil and baked. Tell the kids that today we are going to bake our own bricks.

- Give each a portion of clay. The amount you give them will be based on how big you want the bricks to be. It doesn't matter how big they are as long as they aren't thicker than $\frac{1}{2}$ ". (They will need to be large enough to write the Bible verse on the top.)
- They will need to work with it for a few minutes to get it soft and pliable. Then they should shape it into a "brick". Carefully "slamming" the clay down on the table – works as well as a rolling pin. If they are using air-dry clay they can shape the clay into a brick by hand.
- When they are satisfied with the shape, they can use a sharpie (any color) to write the first part of the memory verse – "I will pour out my Spirit on all people." or 'Put God first.' The younger kids might want to write the word "Love" in another language or two instead of the longer verse. (See languages below.)
- They can also make flowers or designs on the brick with a toothpick or nail.
- They should also write their name somewhere on the brick.

After class: Bake the bricks at 275 for 30 minutes (15 minutes for each $\frac{1}{4}$ " of thickness.) **The bricks will take 30 minutes to bake, so this will need to be done after Sunday School, and given to them the next week.

End with practicing the memory verse and a prayer.

Thank you so much for your time and care leading this workshop and working with our children. You are a blessing.

HELLO

French – Bonjour (bohn-zhoor)
Korean – Annyong ha shimnikka (AnYoh HASHim-ni-kah)
German – Guten Tag (GOOT-en Tag)
Spanish – Hola (OH-lah)
Japanese – Konnichiwa (Kah-NEE-cheewah)
Italian – Buon giorno (bwohn JOR-noh)
Greek – Kalimera (Kah-lee-MEH-rah)
Swahili – Jambo (JAMbo)
Hebrew- Shalom (Sha-LOHM)
Chinese – Ni hao (Nee HaOW)

LOVE

French – Amour
Korean – Sarang
German – Liebe
Spanish – Amor
Japanese – Ai
Italian – Amore
Dutch – Liefde
Norwegian-Elskede

References:

Linda Norem - Elim Lutheran Church www.rotation.org
<http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/sons-of-noah.html>