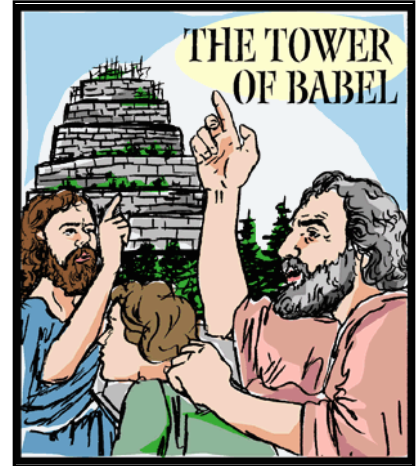


Tower of Babel/Pentecost Rotation

Moved by the Spirit: Games Workshop

Written by Rick from Augustana Lutheran Church, and Linda Norem from Elim Lutheran Church. Combined and adapted for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church by Beth Tobin, May 2010.



Bible Text: Genesis 11:1-9 NIV

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

Objectives:

- To emphasize to the class that we should put God ahead of our personal goals
- To remind the children that everything we have comes from God
- To demonstrate to the class that God's will can be imposed in a very subtle manner

Materials:

- Many types of building materials – Jenga, Lincoln Logs, Legos, Blocks, Dominos;
- CD player
- CD with many voices talking at once and directions
- Camera or Phone for taking photos of towers
- Paper and Colored Pencils for Journal Time

Advance Preparation:

Make a CD with the following directions:

1. There should be several voices – all could say something like "You need to use the things in front of you to build a tower. You may build it any way you choose. Build the tower as tall as you can." Each person speaking should start the directions at a different place, so that it is not possible to understand any one voice. This section of the tape is a jumbled mess.
2. Leave a short pause, then give the second set of directions – "You need to use the things in front of you to build a tower. You may not talk to one another. Build the tower as tall as you can. Remember – no talking." This section of the tape is easy to understand.

Teacher Preparation:

Make sure that you have all the materials you will need for building the towers. Please watch the video Bible study on our website: www.GloriaDeiKids.org, and read the passages from the Bible.

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Opening:

Welcome the students when they arrive. Ask the children to tell you what their most valuable possession is. Ask them if they would do anything to keep it. Ask the class if they possess anything that makes them famous or unique. Tell the children that today's story is about a group of people who set out to build something that would make them famous and what happened to them when they put it ahead of God.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for all the wonderful things you have given us. Help us to appreciate what you have given us and to remember that everything we have comes from You. Amen.

Read the Bible Story:

Read Genesis 11:1-9. Ask the children the following questions:

Why did the people want to build a tower?

TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES

What did God do to the people so they were unable to build the tower?

HE CONFUSED THEIR LANGUAGE SO THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER

Why is the city called Babel? BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE GOD CONFUSED THE LANGUAGE OF THE WHOLE WORLD

Ask the class if they know what it means to babble. You might want to have one of the students demonstrate, if they are willing to do so. Ask the children what else God could have done to stop them from building the tower besides confusing their language. Ask the class why they think God chose confusing their language as the way to stop them from building the tower.

Activity:

Review the Bible story with the class. Talk about how the people wanted to make a name for themselves by building a city with a tower that would reach to the heavens. Tell the students that today they are going to create a tower and see how high they can build it.

Build a Tower

1) Have all the children work together, using one of the types of building materials. Ask them to build the highest tower possible by working together and including everyone.
• After this has been done, discuss how they worked together, talked through ideas, jobs, etc.

2) Now split the class into groups of 2 or 3 and give each group a type of building material.

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- Tell them the directions for the next activity are on the CD and that they will need to listen carefully.
- Play the tape and tell them they are to follow the directions. Give them a few minutes to “mull it over”. (They will most likely not be able to figure out what they are supposed to do.)

3) Play the next section of the tape. The directions will tell them to build the tallest tower possible with what they have, but that there can be NO talking whatsoever. They have to figure it out without words.

4) After the towers have been built, have a short discussion about the differences when they were all able to understand each other and work together, vs. when they were not able to understand directions or communicate with each other with words.

- Tie this into our story – how when the people began building the tower they all spoke one language and could figure out how to bake the bricks, hold the bricks together, build the tower taller and taller.
- Then, once God confused the languages it was impossible to know what they were supposed to do or how to work together to do it.
- This is why they sought out others who spoke the same language, so they could understand and communicate with each other. This is how we came to have so many languages in the world – at least 2,796 known languages exist today!!

Discussion:

To be used if it works while they are building their towers without interfering with their work. (Ideas pulled from <http://rotation.infopop.cc/eve...4101078/m/1276048121>)

- How it is easy to be full of pride/boasting – wanting to building a tower ‘to the heavens’, we are to do things for God, not praise ourselves
- How temptation wants us to turn away from God & how we can avoid temptation
- How confusing it must have been when they couldn’t understand each other
- How immigrants feel when they come to our country – how we can help them, welcome them
- How we can use our gifts to work together for God – what different gifts we have
- How can we put God first in everything we do

End by taking pictures of all of the towers with those who built each in the picture with their tower. Please text or email the photos to Beth Tobin.

Faith Journal:

Have the students write the memory verse. Ask the students to think about how God has poured out His Spirit on each of them. What are some ways we can work with others to use the gifts God has given us? Draw or write about about their responses.

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Closing Prayer:

Dear God, be with us as we head into the summer. Be with us as we participate in our summer activities. Help us to work well with others if we are involved in group settings. Let us be patient and kind with all the members in our groups. Amen.

RESOURCES:

- www.rotation.org (The Ideas & Lesson Exchange-Main Categories)
- Sunday School Curriculum Bible Basis by Pastor Dean
- Six Sick Sheep-101 Tongue Twisters published by Joanna Cole and Stephanie Calmenson, 1993 Publisher: William Morrow & Co (April 1993) ISBN-10: 0688111394 ISBN-13: 978-0688111397