

LESSON 2: BUILDERS TRY TO BUILD A GREAT TOWER

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 Genesis 11:1-9

09/08/2019

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Genesis 11:1-9
- In This Passage: Everyone lives in the same area and speaks the same language. They decide to build a great city with a tall tower that will make them famous. God sees their hearts; he confuses their language and then scatters them all over the world. God is the greatest, and we don't need to be.
- Bible Point: God is the greatest...
- Application: ...and we don't need to be.
- Summary Verse: "Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding" (Isaiah 40:28).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is the greatest.* This story can be a bit confusing for kids. They've been taught to try their best and work well in teams. So why does God get so mad about people working together to do something great? Help kids see that their motivation to become famous was self-focused instead of focused on God's greatness. We don't need to try to show everyone we're the best, because we're not! God is the greatest, and we can point to him when we do our best work.
- Think About: What are some things you're really good at? How can you point to God's greatness when you do those things?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God would give each of your kids a spirit of humility and that others would see *God's* greatness through each child's accomplishments.

Quick Tip

- As you teach Dig In, prepare for the unexpected! If during an activity things don't seem to go as planned, enjoy the adventure anyway. Your kids will respect your ability to go with the flow. And you'll demonstrate that teaching isn't about your skills...it's about letting God lead. That's a great way to point to his greatness.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers talk about famous people, attempt to build a tower, and learn why it matters to them that God is the greatest.

Supplies

- Bible
- newspaper or newsprint
- masking tape



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers cheer for God.

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers high-five three of their friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers shout this birthday cheer: "Two, four, six, eight; it's birthday time, let's celebrate! Gooooo, [names of birthday kids!]"
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll learn that God is the greatest. We'll hear about some people who tried to be greater than God by building a very tall building.**

Share

- Share some examples of times *you've* been in tall buildings, on airplanes, or on a tall mountain.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about the tallest things *they've* ever experienced. For example, preschoolers might share about a tall mountain or hill they stood on, a tall building they went to the top floor of, or an airplane they flew in that was high up in the sky.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **All those things are high up in the sky, and some are probably even higher than the building the people in the Bible built. It can be fun to be high up in the sky in a building or an airplane! But the people in the Bible wanted to build a tall building to make themselves greater than God. They learned that they couldn't make themselves greater than God. *No one* can, because God is the greatest. The Bible tells us all about how amazing and great God is. God uses the Bible to talk to us. Let's listen to God as we hear from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God that he's the greatest.

**Builders Try to Build a Great Tower (Genesis 11:1-9)**

Supplies

- Bible
- newspaper or newsprint
- masking tape

Share About Famous People

Say: **Today we're learning that God is the greatest. He's greater than anyone who ever lived.**

Share about a well-known person or public figure *you* think is great. If possible, share about someone kids might be familiar with. You might share about your pastor or a person in a movie your kids are currently interested in.

Ask: • **Who is someone you think is great?** Preschoolers can share about famous people or people they know personally. Encourage them to share what they think makes those people great. For example, maybe the people they mention can do something no one else can do.

Say: **All of the people we talked about might be great, but they're not the greatest. God is the greatest of all. He's stronger and more powerful than anyone. He's more helpful and loving than anyone. He's the best at being a good friend to us. God is the best!**

Build a Tower

Show a Bible. Say: **The Bible tells about some people who wanted to become great, and they had an idea. They decided to build a city made of bricks.** Give children sheets of newspaper or newsprint. Have them crumple the paper to make at least one "brick" each.

Say: **They used the bricks to build a tower. They hoped to make it so tall that it would reach the sky! Let's see if we can build a tower that tall.** Invite children to work together to continue to make "bricks" with the newspaper and stack them on top of each other. Help kids tape the bricks together to stabilize the tower. They can continue doing this for about eight minutes. If the tower falls, they can try building it again.

Say: **Our goal was to build a tower that reached the sky.**

Ask: • **Tell whether you think we reached our goal.** Encourage children to explain why they did or didn't reach their goal of making a tower that reaches the sky.

Say: **The people in the Bible didn't reach their goal. They wanted to become the greatest by building their tower, but that's impossible because God is the greatest.** Invite children to tell reasons they think God is greater than the people in the Bible. Help them get started by giving your own examples, such as God made everything, God can do anything, and God is stronger than anyone.

Say: **The people wanted to become famous for their tall tower. They stopped thinking about God and started thinking about how great *they* could be. But God knew that wasn't what was best for them. God did something to protect the people: He separated them. He made them move away from one another so they couldn't work together anymore and make choices that would hurt them.**

Share about a time you and your friends had to be separated to keep you safe or focused on doing right.

Ask: • **When have you and a friend been separated after you made a wrong choice together?**

Say: **God separated the people by making them speak different languages so they couldn't understand one another.** Invite preschoolers to "separate" by spreading out in the room, and have them make up pretend words or repeat "babble" over and over again so no one understands what they're saying.

Talk About It

Say: **When we're separated, it's usually what's best for us. That's why God separated the people in the Bible. God wanted what was best for them, and God wants what's best for us, too.**

One thing that's best for us is to remember that God is the greatest, so we don't need to be! We don't need to build a tall tower, because we have God on our side. God's the best at taking care of us. He's the best at giving us what we need.

Share about a time God provided for *you*. Maybe God gave you a job so you could buy food and a home.

Ask: • **What are some things God's given us?** Preschoolers might share that God gives them parents to take care of them and feed them.

Say: **God is the greatest at bringing us people to take care of us and give us what we need. God is also the greatest at loving us.**

Share about a time *you* felt love from God. Maybe you were sad, and God reminded you of a verse in the Bible about his loving care.

Ask: • **God loves you so much! Why do you like knowing that?** Preschoolers might say because God is strong and will take care of them.

Say: **God is the greatest! He likes it when we show love to others, but he's the one who teaches us how to love.**

God is the strongest and the most powerful, and we can celebrate him for how great he is. And because God is so great, we don't need to be!



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

A Cheer for the Greatest

Learn a Cheer

Say: **Today we found out that God is the greatest, so we don't need to be. Let's say a cheer for God!**

Lead the children in the following leader-and-response cheer. After you say something great about God, the kids will respond with, "God's number 1!" Encourage children to pump their fists as they cheer.

You: **God's the greatest!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

You: **God made me and you!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

You: **God made the whole world!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

You: **God loves us so much!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

You: **God takes care of us!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

You: **God protects us!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

You: **God's the strongest!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

You: **God's always with us!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

You: **No one is greater than God!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

You: **God's the greatest of all!** Preschoolers: **God's number 1!**

If the children want to add things about God, they can take turns being the leader while you and the other children shout "God's number 1!"

Pray and Close

Say: **There's no one greater than God. God's the greatest! Let's thank God for being the greatest at loving us, caring for us, and protecting us.** Lead the children in a short prayer.

Let the kids know that you enjoyed having them in class today. Tell them you hope they'll return next week.

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