

## LESSON 2: BUILDERS TRY TO BUILD A GREAT TOWER

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 Genesis 11:1-9

08/25/2019

### 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

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### OBJECT LESSON

Kids blow bubbles with big and little wands.

#### Supplies

- bubble solution
- several small wands
- several larger wands
- shallow pans (1 for every 5 kids)

#### Easy Prep

- If you don't have larger wands readily available, try making some out of chenille wire. Simply form and twist one into a large circle, and then attach another to make a handle.
- Pour bubble solution into shallow pans so several kids can reach the bubbles at the same time.



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids 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



### CRAFT

Kids make gold medals.

#### Supplies

- yogurt lids, old CDs, or circles cut from card stock (1 per child)
- gold aluminum foil (available in hobby stores)
- large paper clips (1 per child)
- blue ribbon (2-foot length per child)
- permanent marker
- stickers, foam shapes, and other decorating supplies
- tape

#### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids build towers and roll balls to scatter cups.

#### Supplies

- plastic cups (6 cups for every 5 or 6 kids)
- small playground balls (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- masking tape

#### Easy Prep

- Make a masking-tape line across 1 end of the room. Then make a masking-tape X across from the tape line. Make an X for every 5 or 6 kids. (See diagram in activity.)
- Place a ball on the tape line across from each X.



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids lead their friends around the room.



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids 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 kids high-five three of their friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” in the voice of their favorite cartoon characters.
- 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 small groups, have kids share about the tallest things *they've* ever experienced. For example, kids 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 a few kids 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 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.



## OBJECT LESSON

### The Greatest Bubble

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[10 min]

#### Supplies

- bubble solution
- several small wands
- several larger wands
- shallow pans (1 for every 5 kids)

#### Easy Prep

- If you don't have larger wands readily available, try making some out of chenille wire. Simply form and twist one into a large circle, and then attach another to make a handle.
- Pour bubble solution into shallow pans so several kids can reach the bubbles at the same time.

#### Use Small Bubble Wands

Say: **It's so much fun to blow bubbles! Let's try to make the biggest and greatest bubble ever!**

Have kids take turns blowing bubbles with small wands. Encourage kids and challenge them to blow the biggest bubbles they can.

#### Use Large Bubble Wands

Say: **You made some great bubbles. But now let's see if we can make bubbles that are even greater! Instead of using small wands, let's use these big ones.**

- Have kids take turns using the large wands to make even bigger bubbles.
- Invite kids to continue playing with all the wands to make bubbles.

#### Talk About It

Say: **The small wands make great bubbles, but the big wands make even greater ones!** Invite children to talk about the biggest bubble they saw during their time playing.

Say: **We can try to make great big things, but nothing is as big or great as God! God can do anything, and he loves us more than anyone. God is the greatest.** Blow a big bubble, and invite kids to shout "God is the greatest!" before it pops.

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

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**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?** Kids 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 kids 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?** Kids 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?** Kids 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! We can take our eyes off ourselves and make God the greatest!**



## CRAFT

### Gold Medal for God

[20 min]

#### Supplies

- yogurt lids, old CDs, or circles cut from card stock (1 per child)
- gold aluminum foil (available in hobby stores)
- large paper clips (1 per child)
- blue ribbon (2-foot length per child)
- permanent marker
- stickers, foam shapes, and other decorating supplies
- tape

#### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



#### Make Gold Medals

Say: **The people in our Bible story tried to build a really, really tall tower because they wanted to be the greatest. They had forgotten that God is the greatest, and nobody could ever be as great as God. God is the greatest because he made us. Nobody is as powerful or loving or amazing as God. I'm so glad that God is the greatest and that we don't have to try to be.**

Show kids the sample craft.

Tell about a medal, trophy, or award *you've* received. Invite children to share about medals, trophies, or awards *they've* received.

Say: **In a competition like the Olympics, when people come in first place, they get a gold medal. That means they're the best at that competition. Let's make a gold medal for God that says "God's #1" to remember that God is the greatest and that we get to be on God's team.**

- Give each child a yogurt lid and a sheet of gold aluminum foil large enough to cover both sides of the yogurt lid.
- Have kids each wrap the foil around the lid to look like a gold medal.
- Give each child a length of blue ribbon and a paper clip.
- Help kids each loop the ribbon through the paper clip and tape the ends of the ribbon together.
- Kids can then tape the paper clips to the back of their gold medals.
- Let kids decorate their medals with stickers, foam shapes, and other craft supplies.
- While kids are working, write "God's #1" on the front of each child's medal.
- When kids have finished, let them wear the gold medals around their necks.

#### Celebrate God's Greatness

Say: **Let's sing a song to celebrate and worship God for being the greatest.**

Lead kids in singing "My God Is So Great." For a fun version kids can sing along with, look up "My God Is So Great" on the Lifetree Kids YouTube channel for the arrangement used in Group's Everest VBS.





## LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Tower Bowling

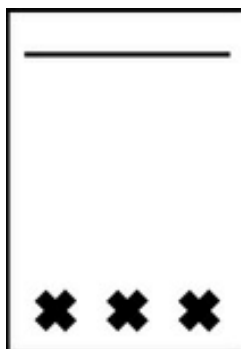
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#### Supplies

- plastic cups (6 cups for every 5 or 6 kids)
- small playground balls (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- masking tape

#### Easy Prep

- Make a masking-tape line across 1 end of the room. Then make a masking-tape X across from the tape line. Make an X for every 5 or 6 kids. (See diagram in activity.)
- Place a ball on the tape line across from each X.



#### Build a Cup Tower

Say: **In our Bible story, the people worked hard to build a tall tower. But God stopped their work and separated all the people. Let's play a game where we'll build a tower with cups and then separate them!**

- Form groups of five or six, and assign one adult or teen helper to each group. Invite each group to gather by an X on the floor.
- Give each group six cups, and have kids build a pyramid-shaped tower on their group's X (three cups on bottom, two on the second level, and one on top). Encourage adult or teen helpers to be ready to help.
- One by one, have kids take turns running to the tape line and rolling the ball to knock down the cups. (Have the other kids in the group gather behind their group's X so they're not in the way of the ball. The adult or teen helpers will return the balls to the tape line.)
- When cups are scattered, have kids work together to rebuild the tower before another child runs and rolls the ball into the cups again.
- Repeat, giving each child several turns to roll the ball into the cups.

#### Talk About It

Say: **Like the cups separated and scattered in our game, the people in our Bible story were separated. They forgot that God is the greatest! God is the greatest at loving people and taking care of us. He's the most powerful and knows more than anyone. Since God is the greatest, we don't have to be. We can trust that he'll help us, even when we mess up or fall down!**



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Line Leader

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#### Play a Game Like Follow the Leader

Say: **Let's play a game where everyone will have a turn to be the line leader. As we walk in line, we'll do what the leader does!**

- Have kids line up. If you have a large class, form lines of about 10 kids each. Each group will have its own leader.
- Tell kids that they'll do what the line leader does. You may want to provide parameters of what *not* to do so everyone stays safe and has fun. For example, if you're in a smaller room, you might discourage running; if you share a space with others, you might ask kids to make only quiet noises.
- Demonstrate by being the first line leader. As you go around the room, move in different ways and have kids follow your lead. Ideas include:
  - hop like a bunny
  - skip
  - clap above your head as you walk
  - pretend to be airplanes and make zooming noises
  - tiptoe
  - gallop like horses
- After one trip around the room, move to the back of the line and let the next child be the leader.
- Play until everyone has had a turn to be the line leader.

#### Talk About It

Tell kids what *you* enjoyed about being the line leader. Perhaps you felt important or liked making kids laugh and have fun.

Ask: • **What did *you* like about being the leader in our game?**

Say: **In our game, we had to watch the person at the front of the line because they were most important. But *people* aren't really the most important; *God* is—God is the greatest! He's the most important, so we watch and follow him. We can watch God when someone reads to us about him in the Bible, when we pray and talk to him, and when we listen to how he's helping people around us. God is the greatest! We can follow him.**



### A Cheer for the Greatest

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#### 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!** Kids: **God's number 1!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You: **God's the greatest of all!** Kids: **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.