



Lesson 8: The Tower of Babel

Scriptural Basis:



Genesis 11:1-9

Overview:

After the flood, the human population began to grow and multiply, just as God commanded in his blessing of Noah. God's purpose was that people would scatter across the face of the earth. But the people came up with a different plan – to settle down somewhere comfortable and “make a name for themselves.” God demonstrated that His plan would always prevail. In this case, He did that by confusing the languages, and scattering Noah's descendents over the face of the earth.

Things to consider:

- God's purpose for creating the heavens and the earth is to bring glory to Himself; he wants to make a name for Himself.
- Our evil hearts are in conflict with what God wants; we want to bring glory to ourselves.
- God is all-powerful, and His plans will prevail.
- Consider the contrast of Noah's building an altar TO the Lord after exiting the ark. Then, not to long after, people collude to crate an alter to themselves thus beginning the age old battle between rebellion vs. reliance upon God.

The gospel in the story:



A key component to believing the good news of Jesus, is to understand our dependence upon and need for the Lord. Every breath we take, every heartbeat, and every step we take, depends on Him. He sustains all life, and is fundamentally at the center of all creation. But our wicked hearts continually want to be self-reliant, and put ourselves at the center. In the story of the Tower of Babel, God demonstrates his intolerance for the attitude of putting man before God, and proves that His plan will prevail.

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read Genesis 11:1-9. Consider how the people's choice to build a tower and to make a name for themselves foreshadows direct opposition to the first commandment (Exodus 20:3). Note that THE FIRST thing Noah did after exiting the ark was to build an altar to the Lord. This week's story is in stark contrast, the Tower of Babel is a form of an altar to another god – self!

Preparing for the Lesson

After completing your Bible Study, please read over the handout from last week (Lesson 7: The big flood).

Teaching the lesson:

A: Review (Lesson 7: The big flood)

Pay particular attention to the construction of the altar to as a means of recognizing God's Sovereignty! (see Theological vignette associated with that lesson)

B: Activity – (building selfish altars vs Godly Altars)

C. Lesson Presentation

D. Additional activity