

# The Tower of Babel

Higher and Higher

**Ages about 7-11** | Video 6:11 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

**Central truth** God gives us gifts to love him and serve others. Humility welcomes God's guidance; the Holy Spirit gathers people in the Good News.

**Learning goals** Recall why the building stopped; distinguish pride from helpful cooperation; connect Babel and Pentecost; choose a way to use a gift in service.

**Gather** Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

**Watch online** [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

## Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: What helps a team work together? Explain that this Bible story follows Noah's family and ends with a much later event, Pentecost.

## Watch and notice

Notice why the people want the tower, what happens when they cannot understand one another, and whose greatness Jesus' followers proclaim.

## Talk together | 6-8 minutes

### 1. What did the builders want their city and tower to do?

They wanted to make themselves famous and avoid being scattered. Their plan turned away from God's guidance.

### 2. Why did the building stop?

God confused their language. People could no longer understand one another, and they scattered.

### 3. What was different at Pentecost?

The Holy Spirit helped people from many lands hear God's wonderful works in their own languages. Different languages remained.

### 4. How can we use our gifts with humility?

Accept examples of thanking God, listening, receiving help, and using abilities to serve someone.

**Then respond and pray** Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

# Lead the response

## The Tower of Babel

**Short family lesson** Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

### Choose a handout

**Draw & Tell** Draw the workers' confusion and one helpful use of a gift. Accept pointing or spoken answers; an adult can write the child's words.

**Read & Write** Recall why building stopped, compare Babel with Pentecost, and plan one practical act of service.

### Adapt by readiness

Emerging readers: read aloud and invite drawing, pointing, or spoken responses.

Confident readers: explain how Pentecost brings unity while honoring different languages.

### Build together, give thanks | Optional 4 minutes

Give pairs six paper squares. Ask them to make a simple shared design, taking turns listening and placing a square. Let each name one way their partner helped. Thank God together for their gifts.

**Look for understanding** Children explain that the work stopped because people could not understand one another, and name one way to serve with a gift.

**Closing prayer** Holy Spirit, help us listen with kindness. Teach us to thank God for our gifts, accept his guidance, and use our abilities to serve others. Gather us in the love of Jesus. Amen.

**At home** With a trusted adult, choose one helpful task using a gift such as drawing, building, explaining, or encouraging. Thank God and the people who help you.

**Handout answer notes** The builders sought their own fame; confused language stopped the work. At Pentecost listeners heard God's works in their own languages. Accept specific service plans.

### Teach with care

Do not imitate or laugh at accents, unfamiliar languages, or communication difficulties. All languages and speakers deserve respect. Building and teamwork are good gifts; pride misuses them. Humility is not pretending to have no abilities. Workers' dialogue and scene-setting are dramatized. Genesis does not say the tower fell; Acts does not say everyone began speaking one language.

**Words to explain** Pride: making ourselves most important and refusing God's guidance. Humility: accepting God's gifts and help with gratitude. Pentecost: the day the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers.

### Sources for the leader

Bible: [Genesis 9:1; 11:1-9 \(USCCB\)](#)

Bible: [Acts 2:1-11 \(USCCB\)](#)