

# The First Skyscraper

Genesis 11:1-9; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 117-124

**H**ave you ever watched workers build a tall building? Or gone in an elevator to the top of one? A long time ago some people tried to build a tower to reach the sky. But God had other plans.

**L**ong ago, after God created the earth, everyone spoke the same language. They used the same names for everything they had or did. No matter where they lived or where they moved, they could talk to one another and understand each other.

After the Flood people lived together in peace and harmony. Then some of the people began to forget what God had done for them. They disliked living close to those who served God. The ungodly people decided to go to live in the beautiful plain of Shinar.

As time passed, the people of Shinar began to think they knew more than anyone—even God. They felt they could do just about anything.

One day someone said, “Let’s build a tower. We will make it of bricks, and we will bake them until they are hard. We will use them to build the top of the tower high into the sky.”

“Let’s build ourselves a strong city to live in too,” others said.

Someone said, “People will come to see our tower and we will become famous. We will be able to live in our city forever.”

So people began to gather the materials they needed. Some mixed mud and straw and shaped them into bricks. Others collected tar to hold the bricks together. And they began to build.

All day the people worked hard. They passed the bricks and tar from worker to worker until they reached the bricklayers at the top. Soon the tower grew higher and higher. The people felt very clever.

God watched them build. He was not pleased. At Creation He had told Adam and Eve, “Have many children. Fill the earth.”

But these people were not filling the earth. They were crowding together in one city. What could God do to stop them? How could He get them to make their homes in quiet, safe places?

God said, “These people are selfish and stubborn. If they are allowed to continue, they



## The Message

We serve God when we help people who are different from us.

## Memory Verse

"God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation"

(Acts 10:34, 35, NIV).

will do great harm. They will cause each other pain."

But even though the people were disobeying God, He did not stop caring about them. Each one was still special to Him.

And because He loved them so much, God made a plan to help them do the right thing. He caused the people to use different words for the same thing. He changed their one language to many languages.

"I need more bricks," a workman may have called. His helper, not understanding him, may have called to the men on the ground, "Send up a load of tar."

"Shovels!" the men on the ground may have replied. "We're sending up shovels!"

Can you imagine how angry the workers at the top were when the shovels arrived?

Soon all the workers began to argue and fight. They could not finish their tower. In fact, they couldn't get along well enough to live in the same city.

So, just as God planned, some people moved to the east and some to the west. Some went north and others south. They spread out all over the world. They lived in families and enjoyed the good things God continued to give them.

"God does not show favoritism" (Acts 10:34, NIV). He loves and helps everyone!





## S A B B A T H

**DO** With a family member, go near a very tall building, if possible. Find a quiet place and read the lesson story together. Imagine that you are looking up at the Tower of Babel. Together, read the memory verse from the Bible (Acts 10:34, 35, NIV).

## S U N D A Y

**READ** In your Bible, find Genesis 11:1-9 and read about the Tower of Babel. If all those people had been allowed to live in the tower, what problems might they have had with food, water, cleanliness, and daily living?

**DO** Look through a newspaper or magazine and cut out pictures of tall buildings. Glue them across the bottom of a big piece of paper. Save the paper for tomorrow.

**DO** Say your memory verse to an adult.

## M O N D A Y

**READ** Ask a family member to read Acts 17:26. Tell in your own words what this verse means. Tell an adult how you might feel if someone spoke another language in front of you.

**DO** Look through a newspaper or magazine and cut out pictures of people who might speak a language different from yours. Glue the pictures to the paper you started yesterday. Show your picture to someone in your family and tell them about it.

## T U E S D A Y

**DO** Imagine what the Tower of Babel looked like. Make one Tower of Babel cutout for each word of the memory verse. Write each word of the memory verse on a different cutout. Mix the cutouts and put them in order. Save them.

**READ** With a family member, read Isaiah 58:10. Tell what this verse means. Then take a walk in your community. Think of some things people in your neighborhood need. Decide how you and your family can help with one of those needs. Ask God to help you do it this week.

## W E D N E S D A Y

**SING** As you think about your plan to help someone in your community, sing, hum, play, or listen to "We Are His Hands" (Sing for Joy, No. 129).

**DO** Using your memory verse cutouts, say your memory verse to your family.

**DO** Find some empty boxes, blocks, or cartons and build a tower. How high can you make it before it falls? When you finish, measure its height. With a family member, read Genesis 11:4. How high did the builders plan to build their tower?

The people building the Tower of Babel made their own bricks. Baking bricks made them hard.





## T H U R S D A Y

**READ** At what other time in the Bible did people suddenly start to speak in other languages? See Acts 2:4. Ask an adult to explain this verse.

**DO** Try to say Hello in at least one foreign language.

**DO** Say your memory verse to at least two people.



## F R I D A Y

**DO** At worship, do a charade of the Tower of Babel story. Say your memory verse.

**DO** Ask a family member to read or tell a story about a missionary in a country where your language is not spoken.

**READ** Read together 1 John 4:8. With your family, decide how you might tell someone who speaks another language about Jesus and His love. How might you say "Jesus loves you" without actually saying anything?

**DO** Tell how it made you feel to help someone this week. Together, sing a song about God's love.

# PUZZLE

**Directions:** First draw a line from 1 to 10. Then figure out the confused words to discover the real lesson from the Tower of Babel. Hammer is the first word that doesn't fit. Now cross out every other word.

