

TOWER OF BABEL

Scripture:

**Genesis 10:1-11:9, Psalm 2:1-6,
Philippians 2:9-11, Rev. 7:9**

Materials Needed:

Program from a play that has cast of characters in front
Handouts

Memory Verse: *Proverbs 16:5 The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.*

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When God told the sons of Noah to fill the earth after the flood, Nimrod and the others gathered together to build Babel, so God confused their languages to scatter them according to His plan.

To Realize—Although the nations of the earth set themselves against the revealed purpose of God, they will not succeed, but God will still accomplish His plan for the whole earth.

To Respond by—not going along with the world’s way of thinking, which is in stubborn opposition to God.

Setting up the Story:

Hold up a program from a play that has the cast of characters in the front. How many of you have been to a program or play and in the very beginning, you find the cast of characters? Why do they put that in the beginning? (so you know who the main characters are in the unfolding play). In Genesis 10 and 11, we have a listing of the main characters who are going to appear throughout the rest of the Scripture. It is the Human Race Family Tree—the “Cast of Nations.” Last week we saw that God destroyed the earth except for Noah and his 3 sons—so we know that the cast of characters are going to start there!

Telling the story:

- I. God Tells the sons of Noah to Fill the Earth
 - A. The whole earth had been destroyed because of wickedness
 - B. The whole earth needed to be
 1. Inhabited
 2. Cultivated
 3. Re-populated
 - C. Noah’s 3 sons
 1. Shem
 2. Japheth

As you tell the story:

Read Gen. 9:1, 7 What does God tell Noah and his sons?
Be fruitful, multiply.. AND...fill the earth? What is God’s intentions for the earth?

So we see that Noah, a righteous man was now to send out his sons to be righteous on the earth and live according to God’s purposes.

Read Genesis 9:19...

We are going to have 3 main family

<p>3. Ham</p> <p>a. Cush— Nimrod builds Babel and Nineveh</p> <p>b. Mizraim (Egypt)— Philistines</p> <p>c. Canaan-- Sidon</p> <p>d. Put</p>	<p>trees coming out of Noah. Write names on board. Chapter 10 is a little bit daunting with all these names! But I want us to pick out just a few of the important characters that are going to play a BIG role in Scripture! (Draw a simple family tree of Ham's four sons with only the main characters) Read 10:8-11 So what kind of people are these descendants of Ham? We find that out in Chapter 11--</p>
<p>II. Nimrod & People Stay Together: Babel</p> <p>A. Everyone journeyed east</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spoke same language (same family!) 2. Settled in Shinar <p>B. Building Materials</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bricks 2. Tar <p>C. City and Tower</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Top will reach to heavens 2. Name for ourselves 3. NOT be scattered over whole earth 	<p>Read Gen. 11:1-2 We've already learned from chapter 10 that Nimrod was the ringleader of the group—the term “mighty hunter” has the implication that he was an aggressive warrior-leader.</p> <p>They had figured out the technology to dominate the natural resources they had available to them.</p> <p>What was their purpose in building the city and the Tower? --stay together and not scatter. What had God told them to do? So...this is really in direct rebellion to what God's revealed purposes are. Who do they want to exalt? THEMSELVES! The term “to the heavens” could refer to the fact that they wanted to build something high and impressive OR that they were building it in order to worship the sun, moon and stars—the heavens, which after the flood were seen as being “powerful.” Ancient religions all had worship to these heavenly bodies</p>

- III. God Scatters People Over the Earth
 - A. The people are united in opposition to His command

 - B. He confuses their language

 - C. They stop the city and scatter into groups
 - 1. By lands
 - 2. By language
 - 3. By families
 - 4. By nations

and astrology is an ancient practice.
 Read Genesis 11:5
 How did God describe them?
 ONE people
 ONE language
 In other words...they were
 UNANIMOUSLY in rebellion against His stated plan.
 What had just happened to those who were unanimously against His plan?
 The Flood!
 By confusing their languages, what types of division has he caused?
 “us/them” mentality—grows
 Cultural differences—grows
 Example: if there are a few trouble makers in a classroom, why does the teacher separate them? What will happen if they are “together” and united? They will not only get in trouble for themselves but for the whole class!

Genesis 10:5, 20, 31 tells us there were four types of divisions that the people scattered into:
 Land (Geographic), Language (Linguistic), Families (Tribal) and Nations (Culture)

What was God doing? Filling the earth back up! What appeared as great confusion of languages—was actually a very purposeful plan to separate evil from evil, so that the earth would not be dominated by one evil world-power.

Concluding the Story:

God’s plan for all the people—and the rulers of those people—was that they would “rule” and “have dominion” over the earth according to His righteous ways. Even after the Flood—that bent to rebellion and turning away from God’s commands was evident. We are going to see that particularly in the descendants of Ham. Whenever they appear later in the Story of the Bible, they are OPPOSING God’s plan on the earth and God’s people who are living righteously. Does God have a plan that involves the nations? Yes!
 Read Psalm 2:1-6 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The rulers of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and

against His anointed saying, “Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.” The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, “I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.”

Who is this talking about? Later in the Story, we find out that it is talking about JESUS!

And in Philippians 2:9-11 it says, “God exalted Jesus to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow in heaven and earth and under the earth and every TONGUE confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

When a nation sets itself up in opposition to God’s revealed plan, will they succeed in the end? No!

So...for the people of God, what is the warning if we know that? Are we going along with the “let’s build a tower and great name for ourselves” plan or are we going along with the plan that God has revealed—that everyone will know that Jesus is Lord and submit to His righteous rule?