



# Confusion: Dispersion at Babel

# 6

## Key Themes

- God punishes sin.
- God is omniscient.

## Key Passages

- Genesis 11:1, 11:4, 11:7–8

## Lesson Focus

- God punished sin by changing the people's language.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will play with play dough.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God's Word**—After the Flood, God commanded the people to multiply and fill the earth. Instead, they stayed together, built a tower, and disobeyed God. God punished their sin by confusing their language, and His perfect plan was accomplished because the people scattered all over the world.

**Song**—Children will sing the “Seven C’s of History” song, the “Tower of Babel” song, and the “Acts 17:26 Memory Verse” song.



### Activity 1: Building a Tower

While in circle time, children will take turns building a tower that “reaches the heavens.”



### Activity 2: Confusing Sounds

Children will be given pictures of animals, make the sound of the animals all at the same time, and try to find the other like animals among their classmates. They will then gather together with those in their group.



### Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### COME ON IN

- Set play dough at each child's seat before class begins.

- Play dough



### CIRCLE TIME

- Bring a stuffed animal for prayer time.
- Bring a globe to have a visual for when you talk about the people scattering all around the world.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Globe



### BUILDING A TOWER

- Gather cardboard boxes and/or blocks, enough that all the children can participate in building a tower that "reaches the heavens."

- Cardboard boxes and/or blocks to build a tower



### CONFUSING SOUNDS

- Print and cut out the Confusing Sounds Animal cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Prepare enough cards so that each child will have one animal and each animal is duplicated at least one other time, preferably more, among the classmates.

- Confusing Sounds Animal cards



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare for this lesson, read Genesis 9:1, 9:7, 11:1–9; Acts 17:26–27.

After the Flood was over, Noah and his family—eight people in all—left the Ark. All the tribes and nations on the earth today have come from these eight people. God gave Noah and his family very specific instructions in Genesis 9:1: “So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.’” God repeated this same command again in Genesis 9:7: “As for you, be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it.” Noah had been commissioned by God to repopulate the earth. Noah and his family obeyed this command; however, the descendants of Noah disobeyed.

While Noah’s descendants were dispersing to fill the earth, the people, under the powerful Nimrod (Genesis 10:9–10), stopped at the plain of Shinar to live (Genesis 11:2). There they began to build a city (Genesis 11:4). These people were openly rebellious and disobedient to God. First, they disobeyed God’s specific instructions to disperse across the earth (Genesis 9:1, 9:7). Second, they were prideful in their disobedience by coveting a name for themselves (Genesis 11:4). They were anxious to build a monument to themselves whose top is in the heavens, looking to gain fame in the land among the people while disobeying the holy God.

This prideful attitude of blatant disobedience angered the Lord—as does all disobedience to Him. He came down to them and confused their language so they would not understand one another’s speech (Genesis 11:7). Thus, these wicked people were scattered across the land, there was no longer a common language, and the building of the Tower of Babel ceased (Genesis 11:8–9). God’s purpose to fill the earth was accomplished.

## APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Christians are often faced with questions concerning how the world’s history fits in with the biblical timeline. An example of this relates to the Tower of Babel. The secular world is continually making archaeological finds that supposedly pre-date the Flood. Be on the lookout for this. It is contradictory to what we know God’s Word tells us.

For example, secular historians date the first civilizations around 8000–10000 BC, with Egyptian civilizations beginning at 3200 BC (along with the Babel-

like pyramids). This information is not accurate according to God’s Word. The worldwide Flood that destroyed everything on the earth began in 2348 BC, so none of these civilizations could have existed before then. It was only after the dispersion at Babel that these early civilizations started, as family groups began to spread around the world.

Some skeptics will also try to discount the account of the Tower of Babel by refusing to believe that the ancient people were skilled enough to accomplish such a task. We know from Scripture that this is not so. According to God’s Word, the people of antiquity were very intelligent. Genesis gives us insight into these people and what they were capable of. For instance, they were building cities (Genesis 4:17), they were raising and caring for livestock (Genesis 4:20), they made and played musical instruments (Genesis 4:21), and they were metalworkers in bronze and iron (Genesis 4:22). They were certainly talented enough (and sinful enough) to build this tower as a tribute to themselves and their own accomplishments—ignoring their Creator God and His instructions.

Be aware that information like the above is just what children, parents, teachers, and all of us see and hear from the world—and it contradicts the Bible. It confuses and denies the infallibility of God’s Word. We must continue to rely on the biblical worldview we know to be true.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

We see from the Genesis account that the people disobeyed God and built a tower and a city to make a name for themselves (Genesis 11:4). God confused the language and the people dispersed throughout the earth (Genesis 11:8). This occurred a little more than 100 years after the Flood subsided in the year 2349 BC. Our understanding of history continues to confirm the biblical account of the Tower of Babel.

It is generally agreed that the Tower of Babel was a ziggurat temple-tower. This conclusion is based not on having discovered the Tower of Babel—which has not been found—but on discoveries of very similar “ziggurat” structures in other areas of the Middle East and beyond. The Egyptian pyramids in particular and, much later, the great Mayan temples of Central America are examples of this structure being spread around the globe from Babel.

Historically, we know that these ancient ziggurats were built to offer homage to the false gods of the

people who built them. These structures are part of the idolatrous worship of these various people groups. We can connect this to our understanding that the building of the Tower of Babel was dishonoring of the one true God who spared Noah and his family and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Genesis 9:1).

Again, looking biblically at this entire account, we see that the dates given for these archaeological finds are inaccurate. We know, according to Scripture, that the Flood was about 4,300 years ago—and everything on the face of the earth was destroyed. Consequently, all evidences of civilization that we find have to be dated later than the Flood.

As the people dispersed from the plain of Shinar, they recalled their attempt to build the Tower of Babel and make a name for themselves. Thus, because men are wicked and, when left to their own devices will always turn from God, they once again began to build their cities and temples throughout the earth—the zigurats that we find today.

For more information on this topic, go to the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord, I know that through one man, Adam, all men sin. And I know that my sin demands punishment because you are holy and just. Thank you, dear Lord, for your longsuffering and mercy, and thank you for providing the ultimate cure for sin—the death of your Son Jesus on the Cross. How amazed I am at your grace, that through faith you have revealed the truth of the gospel to me. And I beg you, Lord, to have mercy on the children in my class who don't know you. Help them to acknowledge their sinfulness and need for the Savior. Help me to be a clear and encouraging witness to each one.



## COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will play with play dough. Encourage them to make a play dough tower. Challenge the children to see who can make the tallest tower.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring the stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, globe, building blocks/boxes for Activity 1, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray.** *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way.*

**Today let's thank God for something special He has done for us.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.*

- Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.
- Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

I'll start. Dear God, we can thank you for all of our blessings. I thank you . . .  
(enter personal prayer here.)

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer thanking God for something He has done.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

## GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

? Before we begin, what is this? Hold up your Bible. The Bible!

? What is in this Bible? God's holy Word!

? What does the Bible tell us? Everything we need to know!

? And all God's Words in this Bible are what? True!

That is very good! Now we'll turn to God's true Word and see that God must punish sin. We will read about people who disobeyed God! This happened many years after Noah and his family came off the Ark. It happened at a place called Babel.

? Can you say that? Have the children repeat it a few times. Babel.

The people at Babel did not obey God, and God had to punish them.

? What do we call it when we do not obey God? Sin.

And God punishes sin. God is perfect and must punish sin.

After the Flood was over, God blessed Noah and his sons, and told them to have lots of children and to fill the WHOLE earth. Refer to the globe.

? What do you think that means? Allow for answers.

It means God wanted them to go all over. God wanted people living all over the earth. Show the globe. HMMMM! I wonder if the people did that? We'll find out from God's true Word! Listen carefully! This is in the book of Genesis. Open your Bible to Genesis 11. Hold the Bible open and show them where you will be reading from. Read Genesis 11:1 emphasizing "one language" and "one speech."

? How many languages were in the whole earth? One.

That means that all the people in the world at that time spoke the same language and could understand each other perfectly. They all spoke one language, and God wanted them to spread out and fill the earth. He wanted them to move away from each other. But the people didn't want to do what God said.

Listen to what they DID want to do! Read Genesis 11:4. Emphasize "build a city, a tower, lest (in case) we would be scattered."

► As you teach this section, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

Genesis 11:1

Genesis 11:4

? Did you hear what God's Word said? What were the people planning to build? *Reread the verse if the children can't answer. A city and a tower. Refer to the Flip Chart.*

They wanted to build the city and the tower because they didn't want to go around the world. They didn't want to obey God.

? And how high did the people want their tower to go? *Again, reread the verse if necessary. To the heavens.*

They wanted their tower to be VERY tall! Much taller than you could build with your play dough!

? How tall can you make yourselves by stretching your arms above your heads? Everyone stretch. Can you reach the heavens? *No.*

When the people decided to build a tower and stay together, they were disobeying God.

? What do we call it when we disobey God? *Sin!*

? How does God feel about sin? *He doesn't like it!*

That's right. God does not like sin. And He must punish everyone who sins! And when these people decided to disobey God, He had to judge them. He had to punish them.

I want you to listen very carefully and tell me what God's punishment was for these people. *Read Genesis 11:7 emphasizing "confuse their language" and "may not understand each other's speech."*

Genesis 11:7

? What did God do to punish the sin of the people? Did you hear it? *Confused their language.*

? Do you know what that means? *Allow for answers. They couldn't understand each other.*

That was a terrible punishment for the people. God changed the language of each family. The different families couldn't understand each other. First they could, and then they couldn't. The people disobeyed God and sinned against Him. He had to punish the people. And He did that by changing their language. Each family had a different language. They couldn't understand each other. God punished the people for their sin. God must punish all sin.

Now I want you to listen to this. It's in God's Word so we know it is true. God can't lie! God told us what He did after He changed their language. *Read Genesis 11:8.*

Genesis 11:8

? Did you hear it? What did God do? *God scattered the people all over the earth. And they stopped building their city and the tower.*

God judged the people's disobedience by confusing their language. And then the different families moved away and went all over the earth just like God wanted them to from the very beginning. They stopped building their tower and their city because they couldn't understand each other

anymore. God's punishment for the people was to confuse or mix up their language. Once that happened, the people did spread out over the entire world, just like God wanted them to.

## SONG

*Lyrics for today's songs can be found on the Flip Chart Song page and on the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.*

► Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning.

? The people at Babel all had one language. Do we have one language now? *No!*

We have been singing a song about the Seven C's of History the past few weeks. Today's lesson is about "Confusion." I want everyone to stand up. Hold hands. We'll start in one direction. When we get to each of the C's we'll stop and switch directions. You can follow my lead. This song reminds us that the Bible is the history book of the universe. *Sing the song.*

Now I have another song . . . a new one. It is "The Tower of Babel" song. Listen to me and repeat each line after I sing it.



## Building a Tower

? OK. What were the people building? *A tower.*

That's right. They wanted to build a tower to the heavens. Today, we are going to build our own tower. I have all these blocks and boxes. I want everyone to take turns building the tower. Let's see how high we get it. If we get it high enough you'll have to step up on a chair to keep building.

### MATERIALS

- Building blocks and/or cardboard boxes
- You can make inexpensive blocks using pool floats (noodles). They come in various shapes and can be cut apart to make blocks.

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Gather all the blocks and/or boxes you brought in. Put them in the center of the circle where you will build your tower. Children will take turns adding blocks or boxes to the tower. If it gets too high supervise them stepping onto*

*a chair or lift them one by one so they can reach. If time allows let the children knock the "tower" down and rebuild.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

All the people spoke the same language, they could understand each other. God told the people to move all over the world. They didn't want to. They disobeyed God. They all stayed together and began to build a tower to the heavens. They sinned against God when they disobeyed Him and God had to punish them.

? How did God punish the people who were busy building the tower? *He confused their language and they couldn't understand each other. Keep repeating that objective.*

That's right. God punished the people by confusing their language. They couldn't understand each other. God must punish sin.



## Confusing Sounds

*You can keep the children in the circle for this activity. They will be getting up and moving around the room.*

OK. Everyone sit down. Now we're going to get an idea what it might have been like to hear all those different languages. I am going to pass out these cards. Don't show anyone your card. Each card has an animal on it. Don't show your card to anyone.

### MATERIALS

- Confusing Sounds Animal cards

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Pass out the animal cards. Be sure that at least two students receive the same animal. For example, if you have six students, you may want to pass out two dog cards, two cat cards, and two pig cards.*

You all have your cards. Now when I say "go" I want you to start making the sound that your animal makes. Keep making the sound of your animal. Get up out of your chair and find the others in the room making the same noise.

In other words, when I say "go" all the dogs will start barking at the same time, the cats will start meowing, the pigs will start oinking, and the cows will start mooing. Then you have to find the others in the room making the same animal sounds. When you have found all the animals like yours, move to a corner of the room apart from everyone else.

*Ready? Go! Encourage the children to make their noises loud! The idea is that it sound confusing.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Did you hear that noise? Let's hear it again. Everyone make the noise of your animals. It is confusing and hard to figure out what we are listening to. That is what it was like at Babel when God confused the language. All of a sudden the people were hearing different languages. Most of them couldn't understand each other. So all the people started looking for their family members who were speaking the language they knew. Once they found them, they got together and moved to a different part of the world.



## Memory Verse Review/Snack

**Acts 17:26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.

*After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.*

*Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.*

*Sing the "Acts 17:26 Memory Verse" song to encourage the children to remember the verse. The lyrics to the song can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.*



# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

When God commanded the people to go all around the world, they did not obey. They decided to stay together and build a tall tower. God punished them by confusing their language so the different families could not understand each other at all! They ended up doing just what God had asked them. They went and moved all over the earth. God had to punish their sin. He punished them by confusing their languages.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

God punished these people because they disobeyed God—they sinned against Him. And, the Bible tells us that we are ALL sinners. We ALL disobey God. And God must punish us, too. He is perfect and holy and He hates sin. That is not good news. God flooded the world when the people of Noah's day disobeyed Him and now He confused the language and the people had to move.

? He must punish us too because we all sin! But, God provided a way for us to be saved from His punishment. Do any of you know what God did?

*Allow for answers.*

God sent Jesus to die on the Cross. Jesus took the punishment of everyone who would believe in Him and trust Him. God made a way through Jesus that we could get to heaven! That is really good news!

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



## Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His true Word.
- Acknowledge that God must punish all sins like He did at Babel.
- Thank God for Jesus Christ who took the punishment on the Cross for everyone who would trust Him.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## ACTS 17:26 MEMORY VERSE

*(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")*

And He has made,  
*(Are you sleeping?)*

From one bloo-ood,  
*(Are you sleeping?)*

Every nation, every nation.  
*(Brother John. Brother John.)*

To dwell on all the ear-earth.  
*(Morning Bells are ringing!)*

To dwell on all the ear-earth.  
*(Morning Bells are ringing!)*

Acts Seventeen: Twenty six.  
*(Ding, ding, dong. Ding, ding, dong.)*

## SEVEN C'S OF HISTORY

*(To the tune of "This Old Man")*

**Creation**, God made it all.  
*(This old man, he played on,)*

**Corruption**, sin made man fall.  
*(He played knick-knack on my thumb)*

There's **Catastrophe**, a worldwide flood;  
*(With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone)*

Dinosaurs buried in the mud.  
*(This old man came rolling home)*

Man disobeyed, **Confusion** came;  
The way they talked no longer the same.  
It's the Seven C's of History.  
In God's Word the truth we see.

Next there's **Christ**, He came to give  
His life on the **Cross** that we might live.  
**Consummation** is our final C,  
The final C of History.

We'll look to the clouds and see Jesus come;  
God is forever the victorious one.  
It's the Seven C's of History.  
In God's Word the truth we see.

## THE TOWER OF BABEL

*(To the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down")*

God said, "You should move around,  
*(London Bridge is falling down,)*

All around, all around."  
*(Falling down, falling down.)*

God said, "You should move around."  
*(London Bridge is falling down,)*

They disobeyed Him.  
*(My fair lady!)*

So, they built a tower up high,  
Way up high, way up high!  
So they built a tower up high,  
They disobeyed Him.

God confused their languages;  
They could not understand.  
So they couldn't understand,  
'Cause they disobeyed Him.

God must always be obeyed,  
Be obeyed, be obeyed.  
God must always be obeyed,  
For He is holy!

