

# CREATION AND COVENANT: GOD RULES OVER CREATION

(The Gospel Project Volume 1 Unit 1: Customized from the Preschool, Younger, and Older Leader Guides)

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION FOR THIS UNIT:

*Who is God? God is our Creator and the King of everything.*

## KEY PASSAGE FOR THIS UNIT:



**O LORD, how manifold are your  
works! In wisdom have you  
made them all; the earth is full  
of your creatures.**

Psalm 104:24

## TODAY'S LESSON: The Tower of Babel

Scripture's Tower of Babel account tells of man's disobedience and God's intervening mercy to keep people from their own destruction. Not long after God's covenant to never again destroy the earth by a flood, people chose to follow their own sinful plans rather than obey God's good commands. Despite God's mercy, people failed to trust Him and walk according to His ways.

In what ways is the Tower of Babel story marked by disobedience? How do we see God's kindness in scattering His people and scrambling their language?

After blessing Noah and his sons, God decreed that they were to "be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it" (Genesis 9:7). This command seems like it would be easy to obey, but sin's deception fueled an already present danger: mankind's pride-fueled ambition.

God commanded His people to spread out over the earth and fill it with His glory. However, they decided to stay put and build a name for themselves. They were supposed to make much of God, but they decided to make a name for themselves instead. In His love, God drew near to them and saved them from their plans for self-glorification.

God's decision to scatter His people and scramble their languages was part of a plan that emphasized His own glory above the people's self-glorification efforts. Jesus, the Son of God, became man so that He would one day gather His people unto Himself—those of every tribe, tongue, and nation—not to worship or build a name for themselves, but to worship the only worthy One, King Jesus. His grace unites us, saves us, and brings us back into relationship with Him.

Consider the ways God has redirected the plans you have made for yourself. Are you, in hindsight, able to see His redirection as a means of grace upon your life? Reflect on His goodness in intervening. Pray for the children who will learn from you today, that they would place their trust in the God whose plans are for our good and for His ultimate glory.

## PREPARING YOUR CHILDREN FOR GOD'S WORD:

Make sure that your children have a Bible with them even if they are too young to read.

Have your kids sing along with the worship songs that are posted for this week.

## THE BIBLE STORY:

### THE TOWER OF BABEL

*After the great flood, God told Noah and his sons to grow their families and fill the earth. Noah's sons and their wives had children, and all their families grew. Over time, the people traveled through a valley and decided to live there.*

*At this time, everyone in the world spoke the same language. The people said, "We don't want to be scattered all over the earth. Let's build a city with a tower so big that it touches the sky. The tower will make us famous! Then we can stay here together instead of spreading out over the earth."*

*The people were not doing what God had told them to do. They wanted to be as important as God. They wanted to say, "Look how great we are," instead of "Look how great God is." They wanted glory for themselves instead of God. But God is greater than anyone. God created people to worship Him and give glory to Him alone.*

*The people made bricks out of clay and baked them in the fire to make stones. Then they used the stones to start building the tower.*

*God came down to look at the tower. God said, "If they are doing this as one people all having the same language, they will keep thinking up more bad things to do. We need to stop them."*

*So God mixed up the people's words. Instead of everyone speaking the same language, everyone spoke different languages. When people tried to make plans, they could not understand what other people were saying. If one workman said, "Hand me another brick," nobody else knew what he wanted.*

*The people had to stop building the city. God made it so the people did just what He had told them to do after the flood: They were scattered all over the world. The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel.*

## APPLICATION:

Even after God punished sin by sending the great flood, people continued to sin. They ignored God's command to spread out over the earth. Why did the people build the giant tower? Look at Genesis 11:4. [read Genesis 11:4 aloud.] The people decided to build a giant tower to make a name for themselves. They wanted to be great and be praised. Building the tower and living in one large city showed how the people disobeyed God and chose to live in a way that revealed they didn't love God. It showed their pride. Only **God is great and deserves all worship**.

God came down to the people and saw their sin. He knew their sin would destroy them, and because of His love for people, God acted for their good. What did the Lord do to the people? Look at Genesis 11:7. [read Genesis 11:7 aloud.] God confused the people's languages. They could no longer work together to build the tower because they could not understand one another.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

People ignored God's plan and tried to make a name for themselves, so God confused their language and scattered the people all over the earth. One day, Jesus will gather together all of God's people—people from every tribe and people who speak all kinds of languages—and they will worship Him. (Revelation 7:9-10)

## TIMELINE MOMENT:

Last week, we saw how the consequences of sin affected the first family, the descendants of Adam and Eve. All of their descendants didn't want to obey God... that made God sad! He just wanted to have relationships with the people He created! But because God always does what is right He had to judge the people. There was a man named Noah, and

because He obeyed God, God spared him and his family from judgment! This points to a greater story, where Jesus saves all people who believe and follow Him from judgment, so that they can live with Him forever!

## **FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

### **5. Year Olds:**

What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?

What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?

Who rescues us from sin?

***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

### **Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:**

*What are ways people try to make themselves great?*

Discuss how we can turn good gifts or abilities into ways to bring praise to our own names. Tell kids that building a tower is not bad, but when the people used the tower to make their name great, their actions became sinful. Discuss how kids might brag about what they own or their special athletic abilities or their grades to make their names great.

*Why is only God great?*

Encourage kids to remember that God is the Creator and King of everything. Tell kids that everything exists because He made it to bring glory to His name. Explain how only God is perfect and never sins. Remind kids that they were made to worship Him and find true joy in knowing Him.

*How can we show others that only God is great and deserves worship?*

Discuss how we can make God's name great by telling others about His love, forgiveness, and salvation through Jesus. Tell kids that everyone needs to hear the good news of the gospel. Remind kids that all people sin and that no one can get to heaven by good works, making their name great, or trying to earn God's love. Discuss how Jesus changes our hearts so that our greatest desire is to worship God. Tell kids that sharing the gospel is one way we worship God.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

*What do you think it means to worship God?*

Tell kids that worshiping God means that we acknowledge and praise His great worth. Explain that God is greater and worth more than anything. Discuss how we can worship God with every part of our lives, including loving Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Sam. 12:24.)

*Why was it good that God confused the people's language?*

Discuss how sin is disobeying God and His commands. Remind kids that sin leads to death. Tell kids that when God stopped the people's plans to build the tower, He did so for their good. Explain that following God's ways leads to life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Deut. 12:28.)

*How can we trust that God has good plans for our lives?*

Lead kids to understand that God has shown He has good planned for us through His Son, Jesus. Explain that God's greatest plan for our lives is to know Him and worship Him. Share that through faith in Jesus, we have forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and can live in ways that honor God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 1:3-10.)

## **The Gospel: God's Plan for Me**

Ask your kids if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with your kids.

**God rules.** Explain to your kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

**We sinned.** Tell your kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

**God provided.** Read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Jesus gives.** Share with your kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

**We respond.** Tell your kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.