

LESSON 3: THE BEGINNING OF LANGUAGES

from Genesis 11:1-9

Noah and his wife had children who had children who had children until there were many people on earth again after the flood.

Everyone spoke the same language. The people found some land near Shinar and lived there.

They said to each other, "Let's make bricks and mortar. Let's make a huge city. Let's build a tall tower, so tall that it will reach to Heaven."

The people made bricks and mortar. They began to make the city and the tower.

They said, "See how important we are. We can do anything all by ourselves." They forgot about God.

God saw the tower. He said, "The people have one language and they are doing what they said they would do. They will be able to do anything they want to do, good or bad."

God confused the languages, so that there were many languages. The people did not understand each other. They could not work together anymore.

The people moved away from Shinar and went to many places on the earth. They did not finish the tower or the city. The name of the tower is Babel.

1. At the beginning of the story, how many languages were there on the earth?

2. There are more than 6,000 languages in the world today. What languages do the people in our class speak?

3. What did the people do to show how important they thought they were?

4. What did God do so that the people could not finish their project?

5. What happened to the people? What happened to their project?

EXTRA QUESTIONS (Lesson 4)

6. The people in this story wanted to live together in unity, but without God. What is unity? If you don't know, ask an adult.

7. God wants us to live in unity with everyone. Another word for unity is union. Where have you heard this prayer before? "For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for **the union of all men**, let us pray to the Lord?"

Unity is only possible with God, not by building a city or a tower or doing any other project.

8. Working together with other people goes best when you speak the same language and can understand each other. God said about the people in the story, "They will be able to do anything they want to do."

Who do you know who speaks a language other than English?

Try to learn some words in their language, so you can work together better.

9. What do you think would be possible if everyone in the world tried to learn to speak the same language as, and understand, people who are very different from themselves?
