Preschool–Grade 6

The Tower of Babel

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God is the greatest. I don't need to show off.
Bible passage: Genesis 11:1–9. Read Genesis 11:1–9 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Pride goeth before destruction" *Proverbs 16:18 (KJV)*. **Pride** means thinking "I'm the greatest!" **Goeth before destruction** means it comes before everything falls down.
You need: a Bible, building blocks, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Genesis 11.

1. Opening game: Build It Up (5 minutes)

Sit in a circle with the blocks in the middle. Each child adds one block to a tower, and everyone counts the blocks out loud. When it falls, laugh and build again. Say: "Wow, a tall tower! Today we will hear a true story about people who built a very tall tower. They wanted everyone to say how great they were."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 11. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Long ago, everyone spoke the same words (Genesis 11:1). *(Point to your mouth.)*

The people made bricks. They baked them hard in the fire (11:3). *(Pat your hands like making a brick.)*

They said, "Let's build a city and a tall, tall tower!" (11:4) *(Stack your fists, one on top of the other, up high.)*

"Let's make a big name for ourselves!" (11:4) *(Puff out your chest.)*

Say it with me: "God is the greatest!"

God came down to see the city and the tower (11:5). *(Put your hand over your eyes and look.)*

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The story continues:
God mixed up their words (11:7). *(Roll your hands around and around.)*
They could not understand each other (11:7). *(Shrug your shoulders.)*
God scattered the people, all over the earth (11:8). *(Spread your arms out wide.)*
They stopped building the city (11:8). *(Freeze! Put your hands down.)*
The place was called Babel (11:9). *(Say "Babel" slowly together.)*
Say it with me: "God is bigger than anything!"

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did the people build with? *(Bricks! Genesis 11:3)*
2. What did they want to build? *(A city and a tall tower, 11:4)*
3. What did God do to their words? *(He mixed them up, 11:7)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'Pride goeth before destruction.' Pride is thinking 'I'm the greatest!'" Teach the motions: stand up tall on tiptoes and puff out your chest for "Pride goeth," then slowly crumble down to sit on the floor for "before destruction." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy voice. Then say "Proverbs 16:18" and clap two times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God is the greatest, and God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

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6. Activity: Scatter! (5–10 minutes)

Everyone stands close together in the middle of the room. Say "Scatter!" and the kids tiptoe to all the corners of the room. Say "Come back!" and they walk back to the middle. Play a few times. Then give each child a take-home sheet and help them draw a tall tower made of bricks in the drawing box. While they color, ask: "Who is the greatest? Who is bigger than any tower?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for being so great.
Help me not to show off.
I love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, build the block tower again or play Scatter! Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks how tall the tower was: say, The Bible doesn't tell us. The people wanted it to "reach unto heaven" (Genesis 11:4).

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