

A WORLD UNITED AGAINST GOD

CONCEPT

God's sovereignty assures the accomplishment of His plan for mankind.

GOAL

Christian students will learn that nothing can stop God's incredible plan for the people of the world.

Non-Christian students will learn that all people naturally move away from God and His loving leadership in their lives.

PASSAGE: GENESIS 10:8, 9; 11:1-9

Key Verse: "The Lord upsets the plans of the nations. He ruins all their plans. But the Lord's plans will stand firm forever..." Psalm 33:10, 11 (NCV)

PLANNING AHEAD*

Lesson Supplies

Lesson:

- World map

Learning Activity #2:

- 8 Tower Hunt question cards—laminated with magnetic tape on back of each
- 8 Tower pieces—laminated with magnetic tape on back of each

Craft Supplies

Activity Stations:

- Jenga
- "Tower of Babel Research Questions" handout, 1/student
- "Believer's Study Bible Notes," 1/student
- "Humanity's Family Tree" handout, 1/student
- 8 copies of "THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST" map
- *Children's Illustrated Bible*
- *Adventure Bible Handbook*
- Gumdrops, 1 pound bag/class
- Spaghetti, ½ pound/class

* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION / TEACHER HELPS

“A historical link between Noah and Abraham is provided in Genesis 10 and 11 in the Bible. The events in this era demonstrate how subtle the revolt against God can be. This period in God’s revelation is so important that special emphasis is needed.

“The System: The Way of Man

Nimrod’s Tower of Idolatry. Nimrod was a mighty king who built six of the ancient cities of the world. Two of those cities were Nineveh and Babel, later to be known as Babylon. His ambition was to make *himself* a name and to establish a world empire. To accomplish this, Nimrod led the people in building a huge temple-tower, which was to be ‘a proud, eternal monument to themselves’ (Genesis 11:3, 4 LB).

“The tower in Babel was apparently an astrological observatory like the ziggurats which remain today in that part of the world. Astrology is the worship, not of God, but of the sun, moon, and stars. Romans 1 tells us that if a person does not worship God the Creator, his first step away from God will be worship of the creation.

“The people started to build the Tower of Babel. Their motive in building the tower was ‘to reach God,’ meaning to attain the position of God. Nimrod’s more specific motive was to keep mankind together under his own leadership. When the Lord observed these events, He said, ‘Look! One people, and all with one language [purpose]! The way they are starting to behave, nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them’ (Genesis 11:6 MLB). This is God’s view of an indisputable historic fact: Fallen men without barriers greatly accelerate the rate of rebellion.

“**The bricks of Babel.** The people of Babel, under Nimrod’s leadership, chose to build the tower of bricks. This choice of material demonstrates an important spiritual truth because bricks symbolize human effort without God in contrast to stones created by God. The bricks would not hold together and so the people used mortar made out of tar as a binding (see Genesis 11:3). This is the way man, by his human effort, builds his system. God’s Kingdom, in contrast, is bound together by a willing submitting to God’s authority and results in peace and love. The human system represented by Babel is an idolatrous system, both religious and political. It is a mirror image of God’s Truth and therefore backwards, and it is ultimately without spiritual validity. Such a system produces conditions similar to what B.F. Skinner describes as an establishment with an elite ruling clique, whose members virtually deify themselves and *enslave* the rest of mankind. Under this kind of world system, Satan binds people and takes away their uniqueness, dignity, and freedom of choice.

“**A monument to mankind.** God observed the collective efforts of humans to build their own system apart from Him. To deal with the situation, God brought division through the introduction of different languages. This made it impossible for the people in Nimrod’s empire to complete the tower, leaving it incomplete as an appropriate monument to mankind apart from God.

“Man’s system apart from God may look exciting because it appeals to the senses. It may also seem secure but as surely as in Babel, God will either bring division to it or it will destroy itself, whereas God’s Incredible Plan will never be stopped.

“We are all aware today of the brilliant achievements of modern-day man—inventions such as the laser beam, which is being used medically and in industry, and is accomplishing great good. But its destructive capabilities are also being developed in modern weaponry. Laser beams can be used to blind or annihilate the enemy in a war.

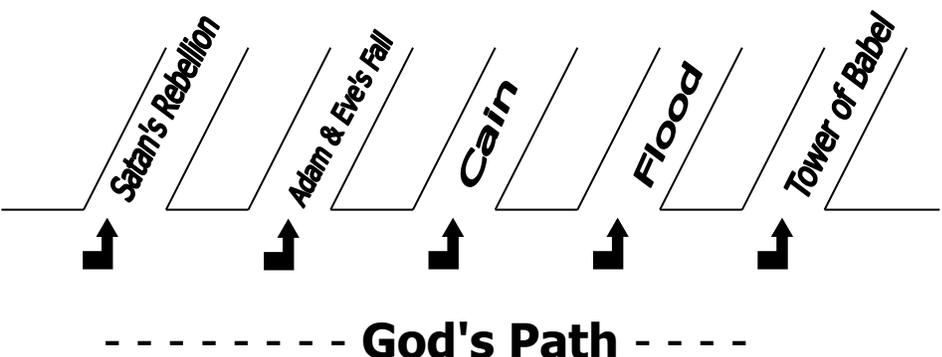
“Which will the laser be used for—to alleviate illness or destroy mankind? Man apart from God has no absolute value system of right or wrong and there will always be the selfish opportunist, like Nimrod, who will force *his* life-style, *his* kingdom plan, on all the rest of his fellow men. The result is predictable since history is replete with the Genghis Khans and Adolf Hitlers and their resultant destruction.”¹

Genesis 11:5-9 tells us that God divided them linguistically when they unified in rebellion against Him. God erected linguistic barriers to slow the rate of rebellion against Him so that *His* plan for man could proceed.

Today barriers of geography and language are being broken down as we enter into increasingly sophisticated telecommunications. Many people, even some religious leaders, see this as an opportunity for world peace. But the Bible says the stage is being set, not for world peace, but for the oppressive rule of the anti-christ, of whom Nimrod is a type. A world under man’s leadership results in destruction. But God is sovereign; His plan will be accomplished despite of man’s rebellion. As you prepare, consider how your daily life, attitudes and focus are affected by this eternal truth.

¹ McCallum & Hamblin, *God’s Incredible Plan*, pp. 34-35.

LESSON PLAN

<p>SET UP</p>	<p>Music - Suggested songs: "King of Kings;" "He is Lord" (Philippians 2:10)</p>
<p>INCORPORATION 15-20 MIN</p>	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games – Jenga Goal: Anything man builds apart from God will eventually fall. • Building – Gumdrops & Spaghetti Towers Instructions: Use the provided gumdrops and spaghetti to see how high they can make a tower. You can divide the materials up so the students can make their own or they can combine materials to make it higher. • Research Instructions: Using the handouts and reference books provided, have students answer the questions on the research handout. Have a teacher at this station prepared to discuss their findings and help with research. • Missions Prayer Instructions: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign and adopted missionary child.
<p>INTRODUCTION/ INSTRUCTION -- LG GROUP 2 MIN</p>	<p>Game – Telephone</p> <p>Goal: To show the difficulty of communication when we all speak the same language, even more so for those whom speak different languages.</p> <p>Instructions: Have students sit in a large circle with a teacher. Teacher will whisper a message to the student on your right who then repeats the message quickly to the next student and so on. Compare the message that is relayed at the end of the circle with the original message. Play as many rounds as you wish. You will need to make 2 or more circles if you have a lot of students.</p>
<p>TRANSITION – 2 MIN</p>	<p>We're going to see a skit now about how it happened that there are so many languages in the world.</p>
<p>LEARNING ACTIVITY #1 – LG GROUP 10 MIN</p>	<p>DRAMA - "Scenes from the Tower" skit performed by Drama Team</p> <p>Instructions: Choose a teacher to do the following introduction to the skit.</p> <p>When the people on earth became so evil and rebellious that God was sorry He had made them, He sent the flood to destroy all living things. But He saved Noah and his family in the ark because Noah loved and served God. After they were saved from the flood, Noah's children had children and their children had children. Pretty soon there were lots of people again. Everyone lived in the same area of the world and spoke the same language. Today, people live all over the world and speak many different languages. Have you ever wondered why? Let's watch the skit for a clue.</p>
<p>TRANSITION – 2 MIN</p>	<p>Everyone return to your classrooms and grab a Bible before you sit down</p>
<p>LESSON LG GROUP 5 MIN</p>	<p>Instructions: Draw God's Path and the blank "exit" paths before you teach the lesson. As you teach, write in each blank "exit" path that illustrates disobedience, away from God.</p> 

Let's think back to the first sin against God. Satan rebelled against God and wanted to be God. (Write Satan's Rebellion and draw an arrow at the first exit path.)

Then God created Adam and Eve. They believed Satan instead of God and disobeyed God's rule not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and sin entered the world.

(Write Adam and Eve's Fall and draw an arrow to the next exit path.)

Adam and Eve had two children, Cain and Abel, who chose two different ways to come to God—God's way and man's way. (Write Cain and draw an arrow to the next exit path.)

Last week we learned about the great flood that God sent because people had turned away from Him and were very violent and evil. Noah and his family trusted and obeyed God and they were saved from the flood. (Write Flood and draw an arrow to the next exit path.)

Well, here we are again at a later time in history. Turn in your bibles to **Genesis 10:8, 9; 11:1-9** and follow along as I read.

God saw the people come together under a powerful hunter-king, Nimrod, whose motive was to keep mankind together under his own leadership. Instead of following God, the people rebelled against Him and followed the leadership of this godless man. Their motive in building the tower was 'to reach God,' or to be as great as God. The tower was designed by them, to make themselves great. It would be higher than anything in the world, so big it would show their great power. So here once again is the whole world full of people turning their hearts away from God. God knew that they were headed for destruction so He confused their language. He knew if they couldn't understand each other that it would be hard for them to join together to all turn away from Him. (Write Tower of Babel and draw an arrow to the last exit path.)

When the Lord observed these people building the tower, He said in Genesis 11:6, "**If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.**" God knows that if He doesn't keep reminding us that He is in control that we will quickly move farther and farther away from Him. Our key verse is, "**The Lord upsets the plans of the nations. He ruins all their plans. But the Lord's plans will stand forever...**" (Psalm 33:10, 11).

The Bible tells us that since sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, all people naturally move away from God and His loving leadership in their lives. But God desires to have a relationship with all people and is always working to show people who He is. He knew that if the people of that day kept moving in the direction of reliance on themselves, they would destroy themselves and the world. In His love, He changed their circumstances so they would not be able to live independently from Him. God's love for people is the same today as it was back then. He wants very much to have a relationship with everyone He has created. If you don't have a relationship with God, you can tell Him that you know you sin and need the forgiveness He offers through Jesus' death on the cross. You will then have a relationship with Him that can never be broken.

Remember our key verse, "**The Lord upsets the plans of the nations. He ruins all their plans. But the Lord's plans will stand firm forever...**" (Psalm 33:10, 11). God proved that the people of Babel weren't so powerful when in *one moment* He stopped their destructive direction by confusing their language. The tower never was finished, but instead crumbled and fell to pieces. The people must have been terribly frustrated and angry. But God did it for their good, which they probably couldn't see at the time. Even these rebellious people couldn't stop God's incredible plan for the people of the world. We can be sure that God will always win!

TRANSITION – 2 MIN

Let's play a game to review.

<p>LEARNING ACTIVITY #2 -- LG GROUP 10 MIN</p>	<p>GAME - Tower Hunt</p> <p>Goal: To show students that from the beginning of time people have sinned and rebelled against God.</p> <p>Instructions: Divide class into 4 groups; give each group 2 question cards and a Bible. Have them look up the references and answer the question on the cards. Then find the piece of the tower that matches the answer to each question. Have them hold on to their 2 pieces for use in the debrief. In the debrief the whole class will come together to build the tower with the numbered questions and corresponding blocks. Beginning with question #1, have each group put the corresponding block on the white board and summarize the answer. Continue on until all the questions have been answered and the tower has been built.</p> <p>Debrief: Now that we have built this tower, look at the first sin. It is the same sin of those who built the tower. Isn't it amazing that nothing changes? It is the same today. Our natural desire is to move away from God's loving leadership in our lives and to think we can live successfully without Him. Remember our key verse, "The Lord upsets the plans of the nations. He ruins all their plans. But the Lord's plans will stand firm forever..." (Psalm 33:10, 11). God makes sure His plan will stand no matter what man does. God is more powerful and His plan is what is best for us. When we decide to work with God to tell others about Jesus, we are a part of His plan. God wants to work powerfully through us. When we decide to believe that God is in control so many incredible things happen.</p>
<p>TRANSITION – 2 MIN</p>	<p>Let's get into small groups to talk a little more and to pray.</p>
<p>LEARNING ACTIVITY #3 – SM GROUP 10 MIN Rationale: to apply scripture to real life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think it was mean of God to change the language of the people? It shows that He's pretty powerful, doesn't it? Do you think God uses His great power just so He can show us He's the boss? Are there any other reasons you can think of? • What do you think would have happened to the people if God hadn't changed their language? • Do you ever think about what it looks like to depend on God? • Do you want to learn how to depend on God? How could you learn? Do you know any adults who you could ask? <p>Let's pray and thank God that He is so powerful that He can do anything. Let's thank Him that He loves us so much that He uses His power for our good. He will make sure that His plan for us will be completed. <i>If you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sins, you can do that at any time. Then you can have a relationship with Him forever.</i> Let's pray that we will believe that He is in control and ask Him how we can be a part of His incredible plan.</p>

Believer's Study Bible Notes

Gen. 10: 8-11 Nimrod, a descendant of Ham through Cush, is named as the founder of the first Mesopotamian "kingdom," and the civilization that became known as Assyria and Babylonia. Although God had ordained government to restrain evil, Nimrod ...established a "kingdom." The term "kingdom" occurs here for the first time in the Bible, suggesting the beginning of world systems ...[which] opposed the Lord (cf. 11:1-9; Rev. 17:1-18, note), which will be overthrown at the return of Christ (cf. Dan. 2:44; 7:13, note). Nimrod is reminiscent of the wicked warriors at the time of the Flood (6:4). Israel would experience during its history the oppression of these warlike nations to the east; they were characterized by empire building, like that of their father, Nimrod.

Gen. 11:1 Immediately after the Flood, "the whole earth" was speaking only one language. This description reflects the unity of the human family which descended from Noah's sons. It also anticipates the expanding sin of the human race (11:6).

Gen. 11:2 "Shinar" was in a plain or valley, located in ancient Babylonia (southern Mesopotamia).

Gen. 11:4 The intention of the city and the tower was to achieve greatness (a "name"), and to strengthen the people's resolve to remain together, rather than to spread throughout the world (9:1). This becomes the pattern of the Gentile nations. The name "Babylon" became almost synonymous with pride and power (Rev. 18:1, 9, 10, 21). The tower was ...designed to extend... as a symbol of the religion of the people. Mesopotamian culture is known for its step-towers, known as ziggurats, which (unlike the Egyptian pyramids) were used as temples.

Gen. 11:9 The word "Babel"... the Babylonians understood to mean "gate of the god." The biblical writer makes a play on the Hebrew word "confuse," indicating that unified "Babel" disintegrated into confusion. God's reaction to the pride and ambition of the people caused the confusion of language and the scattering of the people.

Gen. 11:5 "But the Lord came down" is sarcasm; the most magnificent efforts of men were still puny in God's eyes.