

People Build a Tower at Babel

Genesis 11:1-9


Five- and six-year-olds are excited to learn how to do things by themselves. Despite their growing independence, kids this age can grasp that we need God to help us grow and learn new things each day. Children will enjoy inviting God into the details of their lives and growth if they know they can. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God is here to help us every day and we can ask for God’s help anytime, anywhere.



► **Bible Point**
We need God.

Key Verse
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will ask God for help in daily life.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	The Whole Part Learn that God wants their whole hearts just as they want a whole cracker.	Bible, at least 1 cracker per child plus 1 extra, antibacterial gel (optional)	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what different languages have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, paper, pen Teacher Pack: CD	Write on a piece of paper “Spanish: <i>Necesitamos a Dios;</i> French: <i>Nous avons besoin de Dieu;</i> German: <i>Wir brauchen Gott.</i> ” Place the paper in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Tower of Babel Learn that we need God, and hear two block puppets talk about what happened to the people of Babel.	Bible, CD player, box of blocks, 2 large blocks, tape, scissors, paper, table, glue sticks Teacher Pack: CD, wiggly eyes, “The Tower of Babel” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Make block puppets using the 2 blocks and the wiggly eyes from the Teacher Pack. Turn a table on its side for a simple puppet stage. Hide the box of blocks in the room. Print or write the sentences used in Theo’s News and cut each word out.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Brick by Brick Try to follow orders they can't understand.</p>	My Bible Playground, tape	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Brick Stackin' Snacks Make tower snacks.</p>	mini marshmallows, toothpicks, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: What's That You Say? Play the game of Telephone using different languages.</p>		
	<p>Center 4: A Name for God Watch God's name appear as they try to make a name for themselves.</p>	white crayon, cups of water, washable watercolor paints, 1 paintbrush and 1 piece of white paper per child	Using a white crayon, write "God" in large letters on a white piece of paper for each child.
<p>5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p>"We Need God" Prayer Draw a prayer list of things they need help with.</p>	index cards, pencils	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “It’s Good to Have You...” (track 14), “We Need God” (track 18)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You’ll Do

As children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead the kids in doing the actions and singing “It’s Good to Have You...” (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of “Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?”

 **It’s good to have you in church today.** (*nod your head and point to everyone in the room*)

Let’s sing, (*cup hands around mouth*) **let’s learn,** (*point to your head*) **and let’s pray.** (*make praying hands*)


We’ll make new friends, and we’ll have so much fun. (*shake someone’s hand*)

We’re glad you’ve joined us today! (*hold hands in a circle and swing hands back and forth*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we’ll learn that ► **WE NEED GOD.** God’s always here to help us, anytime and anywhere. Let’s sing a song about needing God.

Lead the kids in making praying hands and singing “We Need God” (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of “This Old Man.”

 **Thank you, God!**

This is true!

We need you in all we do.

If it’s night or day;

If we sleep or play—

We need you in all we do.

(Repeat.)

Say: No matter where we are or what we’re doing, ► **WE NEED GOD.** When we ask for God’s help and show God we need him, we show God we love him with our whole hearts. Let’s learn more about loving God with all of us—not just part of us.





2

KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

The Whole Part

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and gather at a table. Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:5, says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5). This means that you can love God with your whole heart. Let's say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

Then show kids a cracker, and say: **Who wants a bite of this cracker?** Give the kids each a tiny crumb of the cracker, leaving most of it intact. **Didn't you just love that cracker?** Start to put the cracker away. See if the kids complain that they got only small crumbs. Then say: **Oh, you mean you wanted the whole cracker?**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think when I gave you only crumbs?
- Why did you want a whole cracker?

Bring out the cracker again.

Say: **Just as you wanted all of this cracker, God wants all your love. ► WE NEED GOD, and the Bible says to love God with our whole hearts!** Give each child a whole cracker to eat. **What are ways you can love God with your whole heart?** Help children with ideas as needed. When kids have finished eating, lead them in saying the simplified Key Verse once more: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

3

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**



The Whole Part Supplies

Bible
at least 1 cracker per child plus 1 extra antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
paper
pen
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Write on a piece of paper "Spanish: *Necesitamos a Dios*; French: *Nous avons besoin de Dieu*; German: *Wir brauchen Gott*." Place the paper in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Bible Time: Tower of Babel Supplies

Bible
CD player
box of blocks
2 large blocks
tape
scissors
paper
table
glue sticks

Teacher Pack

CD: "Babbling Bricks"
(track 17)
wiggly eyes
"The Tower of Babel"
poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Tower of Babel Easy Prep

Make block puppets using the 2 blocks and the wiggly eyes from the Teacher Pack. Turn a table on its side for a simple puppet stage. Hide the box of blocks in the room. Print or write the sentences used in Theo's News and cut each word out.

Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box and give you the foreign language sample to read aloud for the group. The sentences are pronounced: Ness-es-ee-tah-mos ah Dee-os; News av-on bezh-won deh Diy-uh; Veer brow-chen Got. All mean "We need God." Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, why do we need languages or words?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this paper with foreign words on it in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, it helps me understand another language!

Teacher: You're a smart dog, Theo!

(Ask kids if they understood any of the foreign words. Pause for kids to respond.)

Teacher: We need words to talk to each other but it's hard to understand a language you don't speak.

Theo: That's right! I didn't understand those languages.

Teacher: You know what else we need, Theo? ► **WE NEED GOD.** In the Bible today, we'll hear about some people who forgot they needed God and we'll find out what happened to their words!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time: Tower of Babel

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 11, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► WE NEED GOD.**

After the flood, Noah's children grew up and had children, and those children grew up and had children. The world was getting full of people again! Let's listen to our brick puppets, Brickster and Brick Brack, tell us about what happened to the people in a place called Babel.

Invite two children to control the puppets while the CD plays. Play "Babbling Bricks" (track 17 on the CD). Pause the CD while the kids look for the box of blocks and build a tower. Then continue the track to its end.



Say: **Wow! The people wanted to build a tall tower, and they believed they could do great things without God’s help. They forgot about God! So God mixed up their languages so they couldn’t talk to each other.** Set out “The Tower of Babel” poster, the pile of foreign words, and several glue sticks.



Say: **Can any of you say something in a different language?** Let kids tell you a word or two they know in another language. **Here’s a pile of words from other languages. Let’s put these words onto the poster to show that everyone was talking in different languages.** Say the words aloud and have children repeat the foreign words as they place them on the poster. **The people forgot about God, so God mixed up their language and made them scatter. That way they couldn’t depend only on each other. They learned everyone needs God.** Have kids scatter around the room and then shout together ► **“WE NEED GOD!”** Then have children sit in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the way the people of Babel forgot about God?**
- **What do you think about God mixing up their words so they spoke new languages?**
- **Why do you think the people thought they didn’t need God?**
- **When do you need God?**

Say: **God created us to learn how to do all kinds of things, but God also wants us to ask him to be part of what we do. The people of Babel got so busy building their tower that they forgot to ask God for help. ► WE NEED GOD to help us each day in everything we do.**

**4 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.





Center 1: Brick by Brick Supplies

My Bible Playground tape

Center 1: Brick by Brick Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

Center 2: Brick Stackin' Snacks Supplies

mini marshmallows
toothpicks
antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

CENTER 1:

Brick by Brick

What You'll Do

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages.

Say: **The people of Babel made bricks and stacked them up, up, up into a tower, saying, "Let's make a tower so we can be great and make a name for ourselves!" They forgot that ► WE NEED GOD.**

Demonstrate folding the pages along the dotted lines. Secure the sides with tape to form open-ended bricks. (Be sure the bricks can be reopened later to see the Daily Challenges and at-home activities.) Then play a language game. Say: **Let's use our imaginations and make up words to mean "Pick up your bricks"—such as "Mumbo zumbo."** Make up your new words. **Now let's make up other words to mean "Stack them up."** After you've made up your new words, give your orders and see if kids can follow your directions and build a tower out of their bricks.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was easy or difficult about building a tower when you heard the directions in a different language?
- What can you do when you're having trouble understanding things on your own?
- What can you do when you're having trouble understanding something about God?

Say: **The people forgot about God and they wanted to try to do great things by themselves, so God mixed up the people's language. God wanted to remind them—and us—that ► WE NEED GOD! We can show God we know we need him by asking for his help.**

CENTER 2:

Brick Stackin' Snacks

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Then guide them in building small towers using mini marshmallows connected by toothpicks. Say: **As you stack your marshmallow creations and build your tower, tell about ways we need God's help.** Help kids as needed in coming up with examples. **Let's thank God for always being here to help us and also thank him for our snack.**



Pray: **God, we need you and we thank you for always being here to help us. Thank you for our yummy snack. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As children eat their snack, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Tell about a time this past week you needed help.**
- **What can you do this week if you need help?**

Say: **In the Bible, the people of Babel forgot they needed God. But ► WE NEED GOD always. We can always pray to God and ask for his help.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

What’s That You Say?

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children sit in a circle. Explain that you’re going to play the game of Telephone.

Say: **I’m going to whisper something in the first person’s ear and then that person will whisper the same message to the next person, and so on, until the message gets back to me. Whisper very quietly so only the person you’re telling the message to can hear you.**

Using a foreign language, whisper ► **“WE NEED GOD”** into the first child’s ear. You can use Spanish: *Necesitamos a Dios* (*Ness-es-ee-tah-mos ah Dee-os*), French: *Nous avons besoin de Dieu* (*News av-on bezh-won deh Diy-uh*), German: *Wir brauchen Gott* (*Veer brow-chen Got*), or a foreign language you’re familiar with. Encourage each child to pass the message on as best as he or she can to the next child in the circle. When the message gets back to you, ask the following questions.

Ask:

- **Who can tell me what the special message was?**
- **Why was it so hard for you to understand the message?**
- **Who would like to play again and hear our special message?**

Play the game again, and this time say ► **“WE NEED GOD”** in the children’s own language.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why was it easier the second time to understand our special message?**
- **What are things in the Bible that are hard to understand?**
- **Who are people you can talk to about the Bible and God?**





Center 4: A Name for God Supplies

white crayon
cups of water
washable watercolor
paints
1 paintbrush and 1
piece of white paper
per child

Center 4: A Name for God Easy Prep

Using a white crayon,
write "God" in large
letters on a white piece
of paper for each child.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

Say: **The people of Babel forgot who was the most important. They didn't think that they needed God. When we remember that God is always most important and we ask for his help, we show him we're thankful and that we know ► WE NEED GOD.**

■ CENTER 4:

A Name for God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children gather, and help them paint their names on their papers.

Say: **When the people of Babel built the tower, they wanted to be great, and they said, "Let's make a name for ourselves." When you try to make a name for yourself, it means that you want to be famous. Have kids name a few famous people. The people wanted to be more famous than God. They acted as if they didn't need God at all, but ► WE NEED GOD. God is most important and we need his help.**

Encourage kids to paint all over the papers until they see God's name appear.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What can you do with your painting so you'll remember to ask God for help?**
- **What can you do to show God that you need him?**

Say: **We can ask for God's help anytime, anywhere, and about anything. ► WE NEED GOD. And God's always here for us!**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to the circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.





Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **WE NEED GOD.** I'd like each of you to choose a way to ask God for help this week.

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- **Ask your mom or dad to help you make a snack for your friends. Ask God to help you make the snack super-yummy.**
- **When you're having trouble understanding something this week, ask for God's help.**
- **If you're playing a sport this week, ask God to help you play your best.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

“We Need God” Prayer

What You'll Do

Give kids each an index card and a pencil, and have them spread out around the room to a place where they won't be distracted.

Say: ► **WE NEED GOD in everything we do. While the room is quiet, draw on your index cards three things you need God's help with. You can draw anything because we can ask God's help for anything.** Allow kids three minutes to draw.

Have kids gather back together, and instruct everyone to hold the index cards between praying hands.

Pray: **God, we know we need you and we ask for your help with all of the things on our cards. Thank you for always being here to help us when we ask. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Take your cards home and tape them in a place where you'll see them this week to remember to keep asking for God's help.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



“We Need God” Prayer Supplies

-
- index cards
 - pencils



