

GRADES
K-6

TOWER OF BABEL

Printable Lesson Kit

M **GHTY MESSAGES**

THANK YOU

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LESSON OVERVIEW



TOWER OF BABEL MIGHTY MESSAGE

This Lesson on the Tower of Babel from Genesis 11 will teach students about haughtiness and how not to let your ambition come from vanity. Rather, it should come from love of God and each other. It's a great thing to build up the Kingdom of God on earth. It's quite another thing to build to the kingdom of God! The main character in the Tower of Babel story, Nimrod, great-grandson of Noah, did a lot of great things. But none of it should have inspired him to think he could build a tower to heaven. And what? Barge on in? God welcomes all who want to come into his kingdom. His love is the ladder, as this lesson will show.



How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Connect the Dots
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Building blocks, at least 40 (game)
- Timer, such as the one on a smartphone (game)
- White paper or cardstock (craft)
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

TOWER OF BABEL

SCRIPTURE & LESSON

EXCERPTS OF GENESIS 10 & 11: (NIV)

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



GENESIS 11:1-9

¹ Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

³ They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ The Lord said, “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. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

⁸ So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

GENESIS 10:8-12: ABOUT NIMROD, WHO BUILT THE TOWER

⁸ Cush was the father of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; that is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord.” ¹⁰ The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh, in Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah ¹² and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city.

Questions for Children about the Tower of Babel

1. The Tower of Babel is the next story in the Bible after Noah's Ark. Nimrod, who built the tower, is Noah's great-grandson. This is the only Bible story about Nimrod. Many think he was haughty and arrogant. You've heard the rule of thumb about something we consider good manners: Don't invite yourself to somebody else's house. What does that saying have to do with Nimrod and the Tower of Babel? ***Nimrod was inviting himself into God's house. God did not invite him to build a tower.***

2. According to Jewish history, God had told the people to spread out after the Flood. One reason was likely sanitation. These early people, of around 2400 BC, did not have the devices we have today to make sewer water clean, and they did not have anything like antibiotics. How would building a city with a Tower have broken God's edict? ***It would have brought thousands of people together in close proximity who could spread germs.***

3. Verses 6 and 7 have God saying this: "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. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." It sounds almost like God was trying to thwart progress. But how is that not true? What might God have been trying to save and protect mankind from? We already discussed the spread of contamination. ***God certainly allowed cities later in history, and he allows skyscrapers today. He wanted to save mankind from making choices based on ego. Nimrod didn't build the city to please God, but almost to compete with God. He was trying to see how cool he could be, instead of how loving, faithful, honest, just, and fair.***



TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

Before building the Tower of Babel, Nimrod had built other cities. He built Babylon, which became one of the most evil places in history. He built Nineveh, which also became idolatrous and was where Jonah the prophet preached after he was swallowed by a great fish 2,000 years later. By the time he planned the world's first skyscraper, he must have thought he was really, really cool.

The story took place around 2400 BC. But it applies to today! How many of you have ever seen a show-off get injured while trying something? Have you ever seen somebody try to get attention and it backfires? They end up needing stitches, a cast, or a trip to the emergency room? ***Take any stories.***

The Apostle Peter said in his first epistle, Chapter 5, Verse 6, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." Nimrod didn't want to wait for God's timing, and he certainly didn't want to be humble.

Nimrod could have built huge and prosperous farms across the land to help people get their start. He could have done things God's way. And God would have exalted him by having him written up in the Bible the same way as Noah who came before him and Father Abraham who followed him. He would have been known 5,000 years later as a hero to mankind.

Instead, he is known as a showoff who stumbled and fell.

It's easy to show off. It's easy to get attention for a short time like Nimrod did. It's much harder to wait for God's timing. But let's remember that God has better things in store for us than we could ever dream - if we humble ourselves and serve others.



TOWER OF BABEL

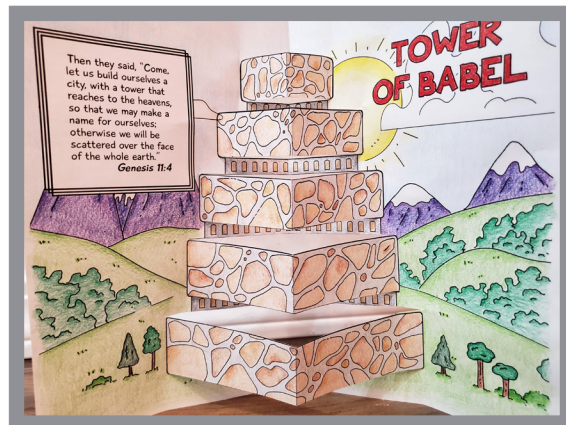
PRINTABLE CRAFT

POP-OUT TOWER OF BABEL



MATERIALS:

- White paper or cardstock
- Coloring utensils
- Scissors



INSTRUCTIONS:

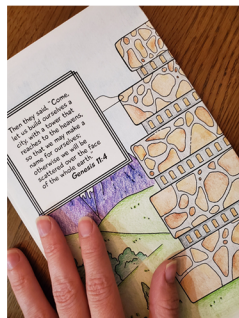
Step 1: Print out Tower of Babel Craft Template on white paper or cardstock. (Note- we included a KJV & NIV version of this craft- so pick whichever translation you prefer.)

Step 2: Color as desired.

Step 3: Fold the page in half as shown along the midline of the tower.

Step 4: While keeping the page folded in half, cut along the horizontal lines of the tower as shown in the example pictures.

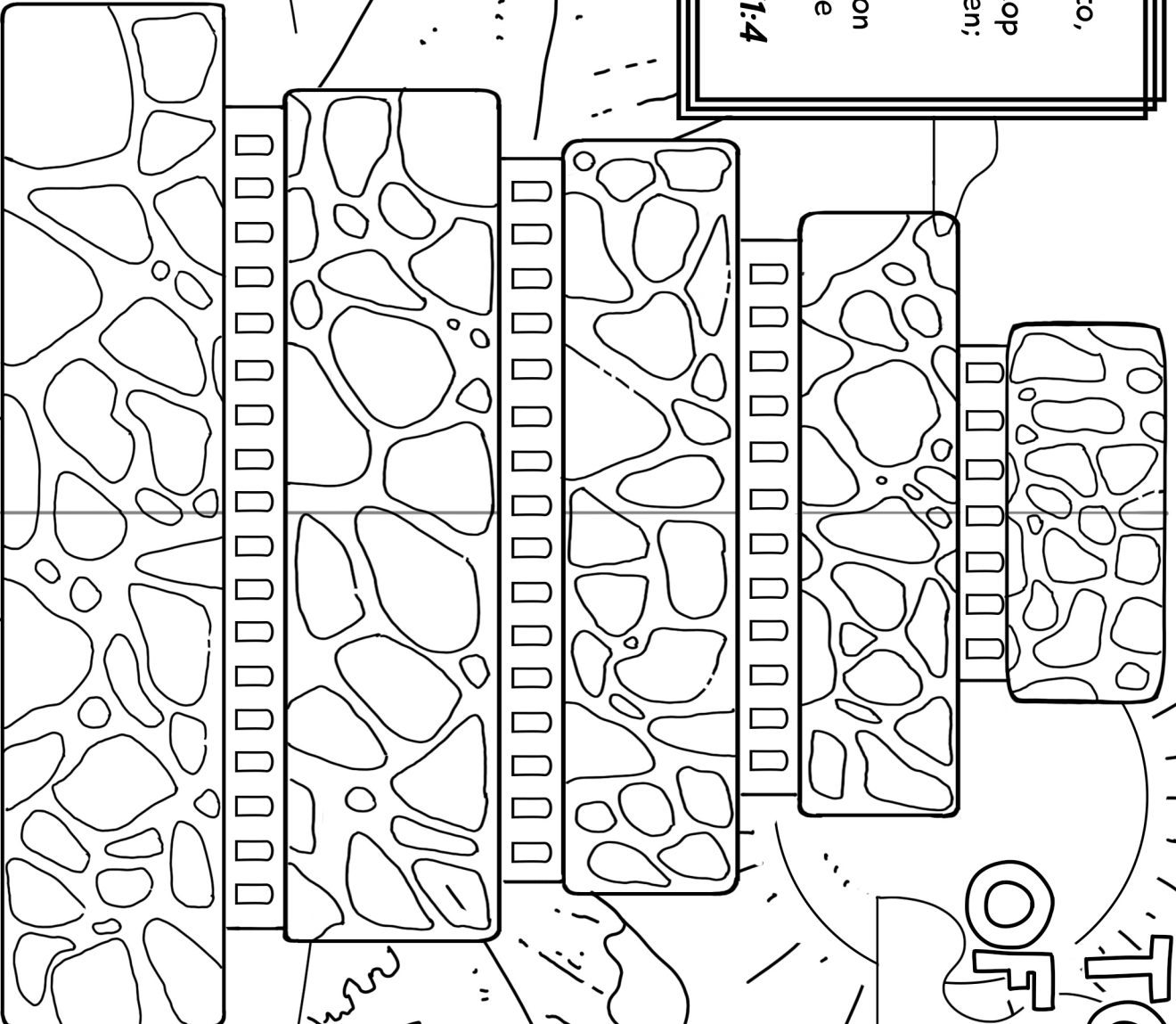
Step 5: Reverse the fold of the narrow horizontal bands of the tower as shown and stand up the tower in a V-shape so that the tower “pops out”.



And they said, "Go to,
let us build us a city
and a tower, whose top
may reach unto heaven;
and let us make us a
name, lest we be
scattered abroad upon
the face of the whole
earth."

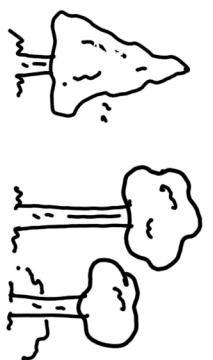
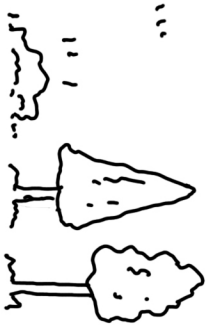
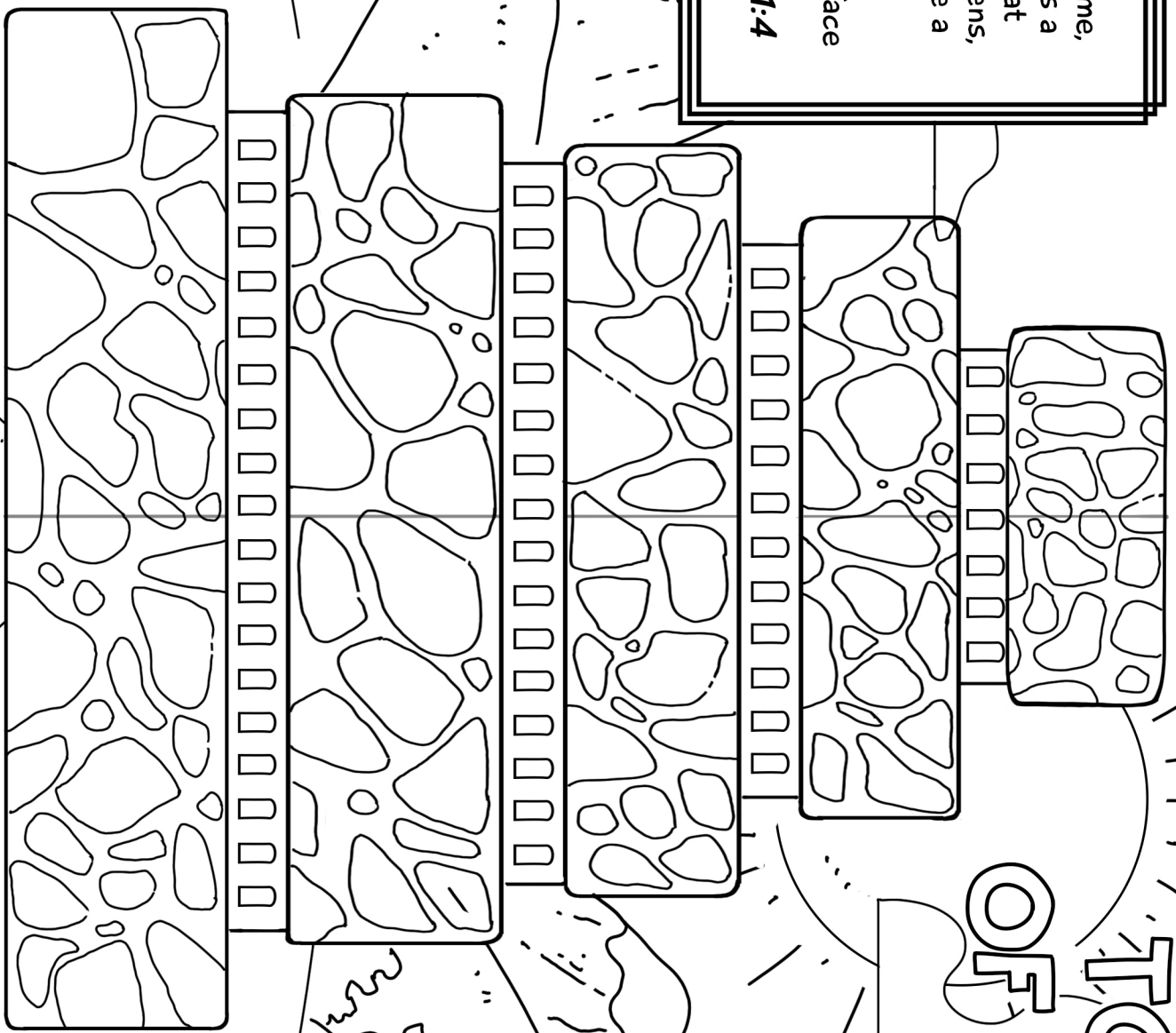
Genesis 11:4

TOWER OF BABEL



Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."
Genesis 11:4

TOWER OF BABEL





GAME

THE HARDER THEY FALL

Teach kids the value of humility while letting them build their own Towers of Babel. The team who builds the tallest wins the race (but it will require more thought and going more slowly)!



MATERIALS:

- **Building blocks, at least 40**
- **Timer, such as the one on a smartphone**



PREPARATION:

Sort out the blocks so that two teams have fairly equal piles and sizes of blocks.

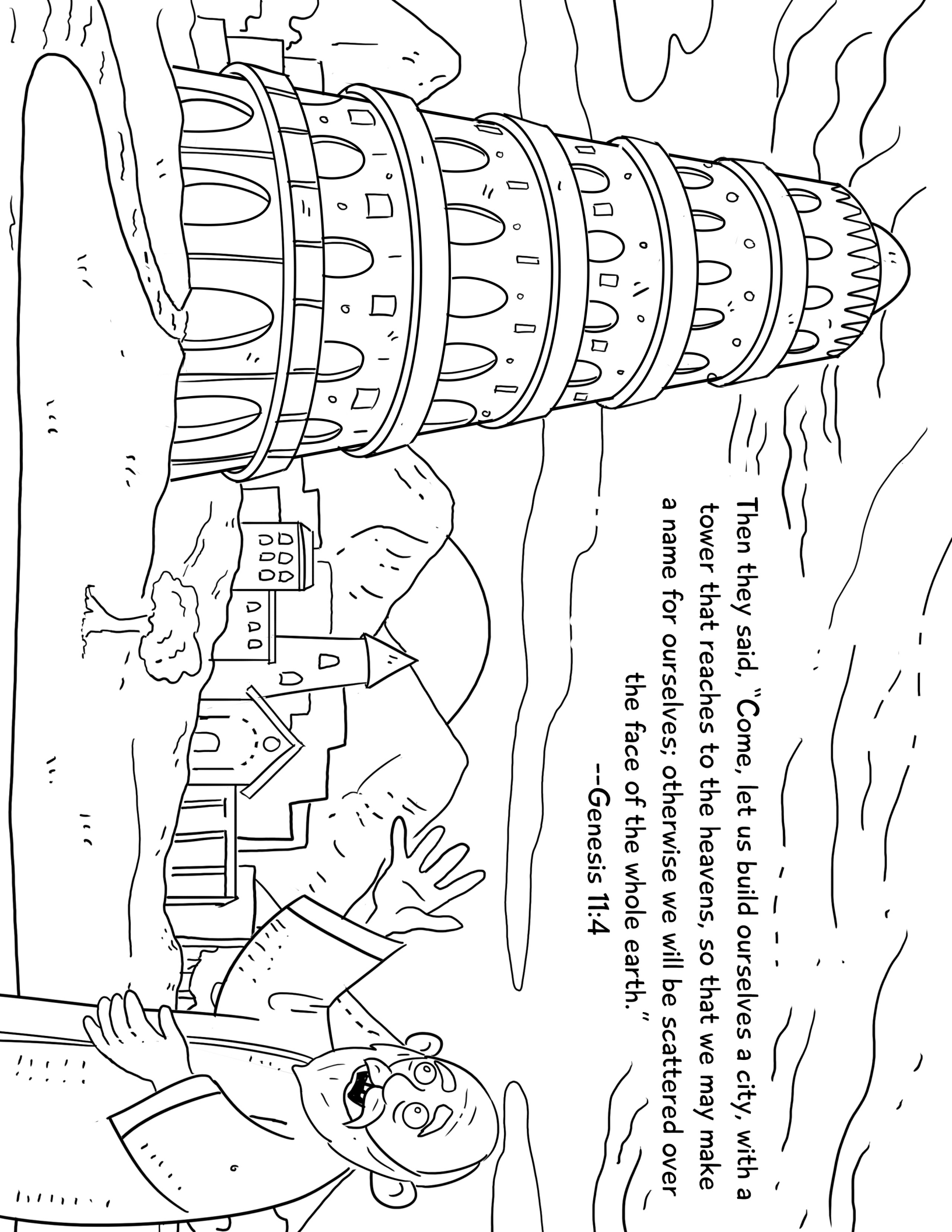


INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Divide the class into two teams. If you have an odd number, divide by ability as opposed to equal numbers of teammates.
2. When you say, “Go!” teams may start building.
3. Be sure to give this edict: The team that has even one block fall is finished working and must patiently allow the other team to continue.
4. The team with the highest tower after 60 seconds wins.
5. Complete several rounds and declare an overall winning team.

CONCLUSION

It's easier to have an accident, such as the ones with falling blocks, when you are worrying about beating others or getting applause for yourself, isn't it? If we had built these towers as a testimony to God's love, how much prettier would they be and how many fewer accidents would we have? Let's remember to be “Noahs” and not “Nimrods” as we follow God throughout our lives.



Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

--Genesis 11:4



WORD SEARCH

Some of the words below mean vain or arrogant. Others mean kind or loving. Circle all the kind/loving synonyms. (Your teacher can help you, or look up any unknown words on a smartphone.) Then find all the words in the puzzle.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | C | O | M | P | A | S | S | I | O | N | A | T | E | P | J |
| O | V | A | I | N | G | L | O | R | I | O | U | S | P | F | R |
| N | S | E | G | O | C | E | N | T | R | I | C | G | R | P | I |
| S | S | N | T | H | O | U | G | H | T | F | U | L | A | N | Y |
| I | I | A | S | A | M | Z | U | O | E | W | X | O | Y | T | W |
| D | U | R | G | U | G | Z | G | U | D | L | S | M | E | Z | U |
| E | B | C | P | G | W | E | A | G | N | D | P | Q | R | G | M |
| R | E | I | A | H | R | C | N | H | E | K | C | F | F | D | N |
| A | G | S | T | T | O | R | Q | T | O | I | J | S | U | D | M |
| T | E | S | I | Y | M | U | I | L | L | H | K | N | L | L | R |
| E | N | I | E | V | E | E | F | E | S | E | R | V | I | N | G |
| Y | E | S | N | R | C | L | S | S | E | L | F | I | S | H | U |
| S | R | T | T | N | B | L | U | S | T | E | R | Y | A | F | R |
| K | O | I | O | E | G | O | T | I | S | T | I | C | U | Z | X |
| X | U | C | O | N | C | E | R | N | E | D | L | D | Y | H | N |
| E | S | Z | P | R | A | L | T | R | U | I | S | T | I | C | Q |

Words to Find:

CONCEITED
HAUGHTY
SELFISH
NARCISSISTIC
EGOTISTIC

EGOCENTRIC
BLUSTERY
THOUGHTLESS
CRUEL
VAINGLORIOUS

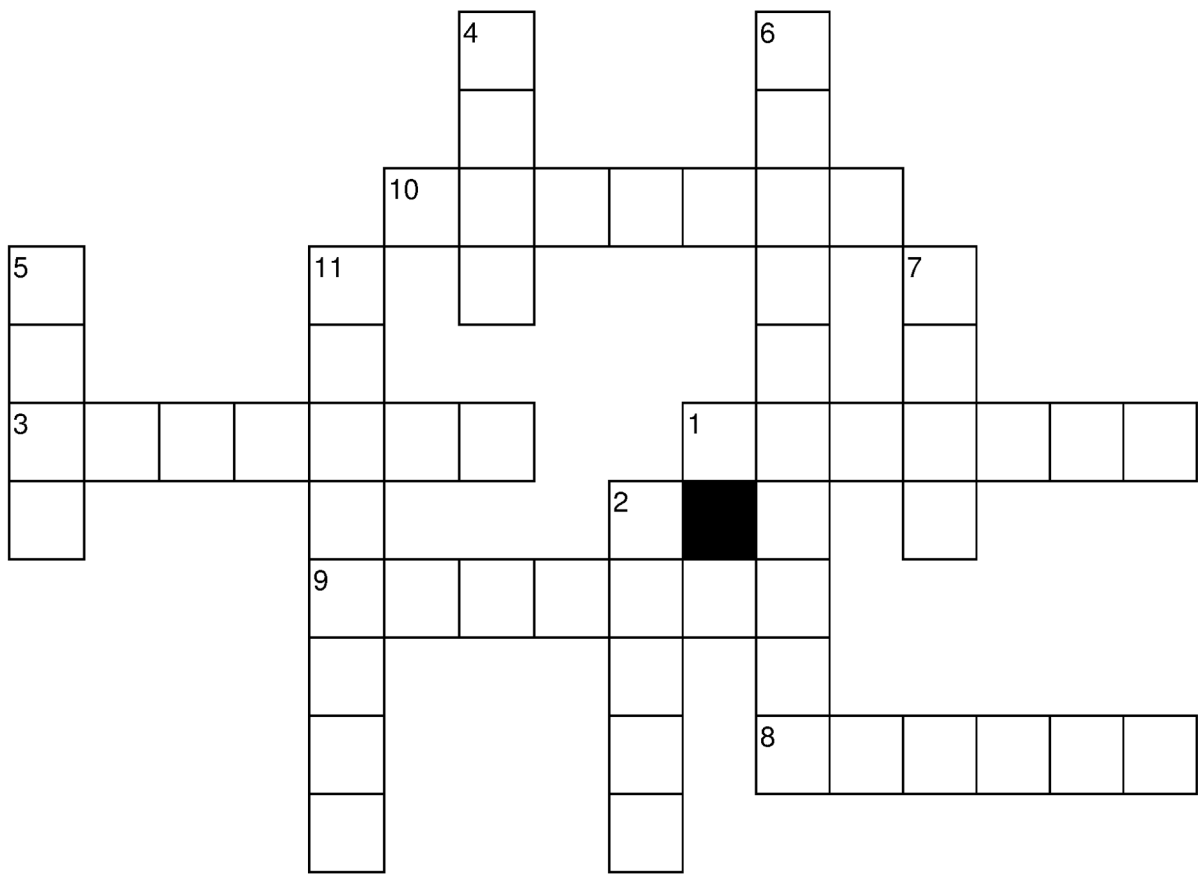
PATIENT
HELPFUL
SERVING
PRAYERFUL
GENEROUS

CONCERNED
GENTLE
ALTRUISTIC
CONSIDERATE
COMPASSIONATE
THOUGHTFUL



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use your At-A-Glance sheet featuring the Tower of Babel & Nimrod to fill in all the correct answers below.



Across

- 1. Book of the Bible this story is found in
- 3. The story that follows the Tower in the Bible concerns this great father
- 8. Career Nimrod had before becoming an architect
- 9. Name of the first city Nimrod built
- 10. Country where Nineveh was located

Down

- 2. This great natural disaster happened about 100 years before the Tower was built
- 4. Name of Nimrod's father
- 5. Name of Nimrod's great-grandfather
- 6. Number of generations between Adam and Nimrod
- 7. Name of Noah's son who carried the bloodline of Christ
- 11. City Nimrod built immediately following Nineveh



PARENT HANDOUT



Scriptures to Read: Genesis 11:1-9



This Week We Learned About ...

...the Tower of Babel from Genesis 11, which teaches students about haughtiness and how not to let your ambition come from vanity. Rather, it should come from love of God and each other. It's a great thing to build up the Kingdom of God on earth. It's quite another thing to build to the kingdom of God! The main character in the Tower of Babel story, Nimrod, great-grandson of Noah, did a lot of great things. But none of it should have inspired him to think he could build a tower to heaven. And what? Barge on in? God welcomes all who want to come into his kingdom. His love is the ladder, as this lesson will show.



✓ Questions for Kids:


1. What did they use instead of mortar? **A. Bricks**
2. What were the people trying to reach with their tower? **A. Heaven**
3. How did God punish them? **A. He scattered them.**

✓ Dinner Table Discussion:


God was disappointed in the people for relying on themselves instead of him. Can you think of a real-life situation where you need to rely on God more? Discuss your situation.

What does it mean to be haughty? What about humble? Can you give examples from school or a personal experience of both?


Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.
Proverbs 11:2



But, "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord." For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.
2 Corinthians 10:17-18



Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.
Proverbs 18:12



AT A GLANCE

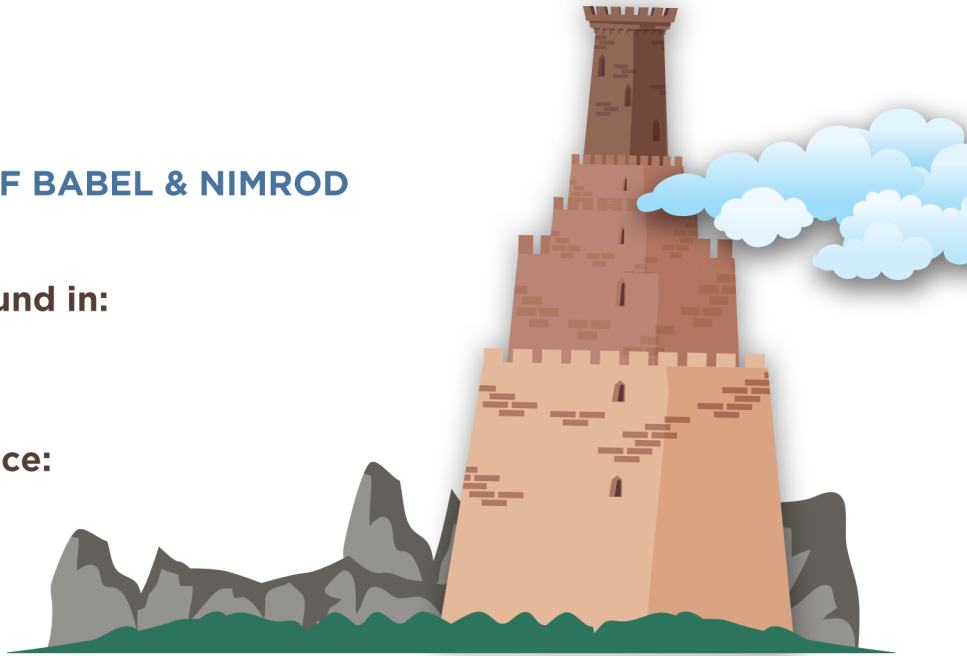
FACTS ABOUT THE TOWER OF BABEL & NIMROD

✓ **Bible Book this story is found in:**

Genesis

✓ **Period in which it took place:**

Likely around 2400 BC



Biblical historic events surrounding:

Noah's Ark and the Great Flood took place around 100 years earlier. It is recorded in Genesis 6-9.

The story of Father Abraham becoming the father of Israel took place around 500 years later. It is recorded in Genesis 11-25.

As the Tower of Babel falls in Genesis 11, it is the story immediately between these two great tales.

Bloodline of Nimrod, builder to the Tower:

Nimrod is the son of Cush, the grandson of Ham, the great-grandson of Noah.

Nimrod is not in the bloodline that leads all the way to Jesus. Noah's son Shem carries that bloodline.

There are 13 generations between Adam, son of God, and Nimrod.

Facts about Nimrod:

At first, Nimrod was a hunter who was pleasing to the Lord. We are not sure when he turned to ambitious architecture. But that likely had to do with his departure from worshipping the Lord, as the cities he built were never historically known for worshipping God.

Nimrod first built Babylon, Uruk, Akkad, and Kalneh, in Shinar. They are in the south of the early known world, near where the Garden of Eden was.

He then moved north, closer to where the Ark had landed, into what became Assyria. There he built Nineveh, Rehoboth, Ir, Calah, and Resen.



LEARNING LOOKUPS



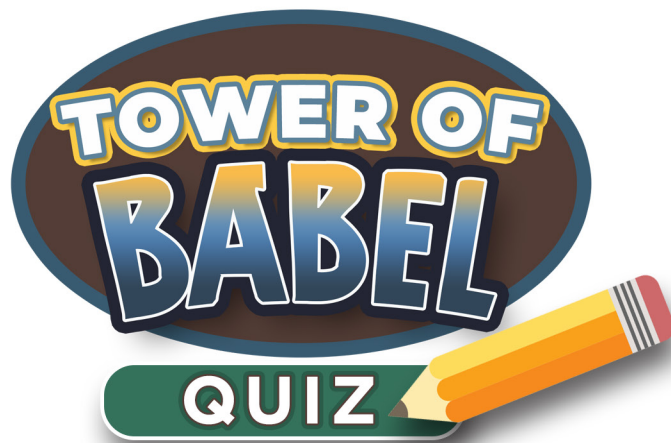
TOWER OF BABEL

Lookup: Proverbs 3:7 and write it down.

Lookup: Romans 12:16 and write it down.

Question: Both these Old and New Testament verses say something about the value of humility. Why do you think humility is so hard to practice? Why do people more naturally like to show off or get all the attention like Nimrod did?

Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Ask God to keep you in his perfect care so that he can exalt you in good time. Use your own words:



Instructions: Read the story of the Tower of Babel in the NIV Bible translation--Genesis 11:1-9. Use the story to fill in the important details below:

CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER

1. According to Genesis 11:1, the whole world had this in common shortly after the Flood:

- a. DNA
- b. love of God
- c. dislike of God
- d. language

2. Shinar is in Babylonia. Genesis 11:2 states the people stopped there because:

- a. It was flat so they could build on it
- b. It was surrounded by water

3. Man had learned how to bake this for building instead of stone in Genesis 11:3:

- a. plastic
- b. rubber
- c. brick
- d. cypress

4. According to Genesis 11:4, man's goal was to:

- a. build a tower to the sky
- b. build a city
- c. become famous
- d. all three

5. What did God do to keep men from producing greater evil in Genesis 11:7:

- a. confused their speech
- b. sent a plague
- c. set a fire

6. The Lord scattered the people, according to Genesis 11:8 so that they would

- a. stop arguing
- b. stop building destructive things
- c. stop learning

7. The place was called Babel in Genesis 11:9, which is similar in meaning to our word:

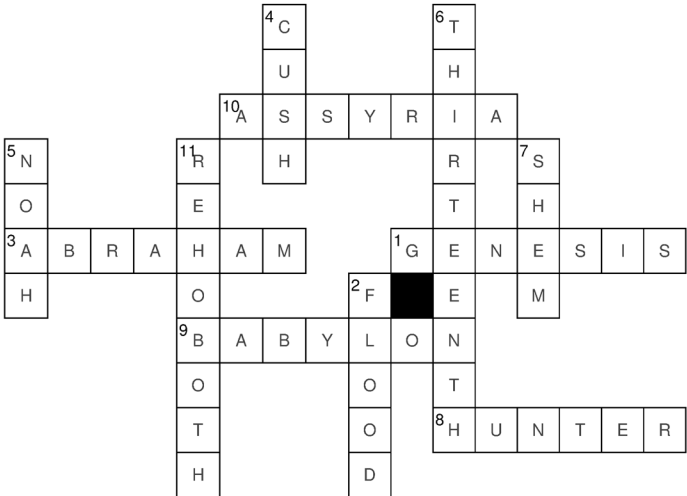
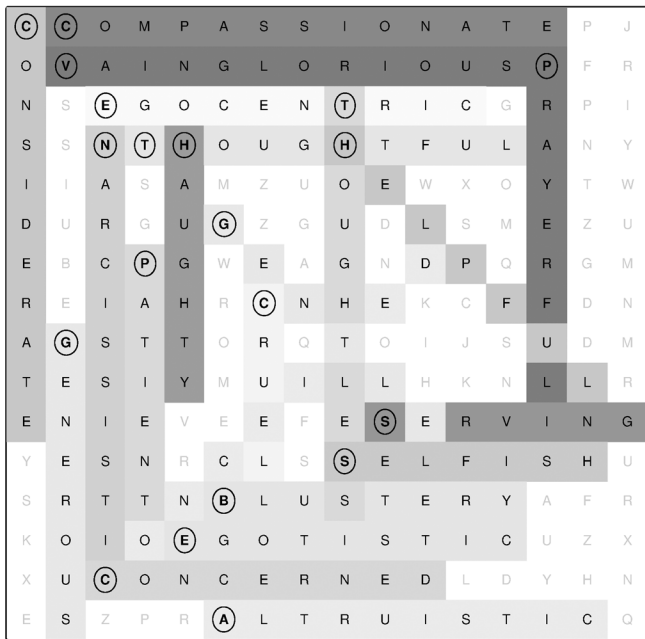
- a. bubble
- b. Bible
- c. babble
- d. dribble

8. The next Bible story after the Tower of Babel is what according to Genesis 11:31:

- a. Abram (Abraham) leaves his hometown
- b. Noah passes away
- c. birth of King David



ANSWER KEY



1. According to Genesis 11:1, the whole world had this in common shortly after the Flood:

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TOWER OF BABEL

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION TO

Date

Signature

