



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

We can obey God by putting God first.

THE BIBLE

The Tower of Babel: Genesis 11:1-9 (John 3:30; II John 1:6)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Jenga Challenge
- **ACTIVITY** | Marshmallow Towers
- **QUESTION** | The Tallest Things
- **IMAGE** | Tallest Building in the World.
- **THE BIG IDEA** | We can obey God by putting God first.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Genesis 11:1-9
- **POLL** | How many languages can you speak?
- **ACTIVITY** | Line Up
- **ACTIVITY** | Mixed Up Instructions
- **SCRIPTURE** | John 3:30
- **ACTIVITY** | Stuff The Boat
- **ACTIVITY** | Extreme Simon Says
- **STORY** | Share about a time when you have been to another country.
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Double Dog Dare Challenge
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - What did God command the people to do?
 - Why do you think the people disobeyed God?
 - Why do you think God didn't want the people building the tower?
 - What are some things God commands us to do?
 - How can you choose to put God first?
- **SCRIPTURE** | II John 1:6
- **ACTIVITY** | Stack Attack
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can obey God by putting God first.

THE BIBLE

The Tower of Babel: Genesis 11:1-9 (John 3:30; II John 1:6)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Jenga Challenge

- Welcome to church! We're on Week 2 of our series, *Double Dog Dare*, where we dare to obey God!
- Let's start off with a challenge: to try and keep your team's tower standing as long as possible. But you're not going to have it easy! We'll have a Double Dog Dare challenge to make this game more difficult!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each group a bunch of Jenga blocks and some dice. Build the blocks into a Jenga tower. Have the kids take turns rolling the dice and whatever number it lands on, they have to remove that many blocks from the tower. The team to keep their tower standing the longest, wins.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Before the service (or with the help of the preteens) write a "dare" on each Jenga block. It can be anything silly (spin in a circle, do three pushups, pretend to be a bird, etc.) and tell them that whichever block they take out first, they have to do the dare on that card.
- **What made this challenge hard?**
- We're going to hear a story from the Bible today about a group of people who worked together to build a tall tower, but it wasn't a good thing. We're going to learn what God did to stop them.

ACTIVITY | Marshmallow Towers

- Before we get to the story, let's work together on one more tower. You have to get a partner, and work together with your partner to build the tallest tower out of marshmallows and toothpicks. You only have two minutes to do it. And your Double Dog Dare challenge is this: you can each only use one hand! You have to put your other hand behind your back! You'll have to really work together to

complete this challenge.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split your kids into pairs and set out enough mini marshmallows and toothpicks for each pair to build a tower. Set a timer for two minutes, and tell them to each put one hand behind their back, then let them see who can work together with their partner to build the tallest tower in two minutes.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Be intentional about selecting the right partner for a child with special needs, to make this activity a positive experience for them.*
- **Was it easy to build a tower with only one hand? Did having a partner to help make it easier?** Today, we're going to hear about some people in the Bible who decided not to follow God and, instead decided to build a really tall tower to reach heaven.
- I can't wait to share with you what happened as we continue our Double Dog Dare series, where we're learning about the importance of obeying God. God asks us to trust and follow Him no matter what, and it's our choice to dare to obey.

QUESTION | The Tallest Things

- **Have you ever been on a really tall roller coaster or tall building?**
- **What about a treehouse or a mountain?**
- **When you think about the tallest thing you've ever been on, does it make you scared or excited?**
- We can probably all think of a time when we were up high and scared. Today, we're going to hear about some people in the Bible who built a really tall tower. **Do you think they were scared?** We're going to read about how God reacted when they did that.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

IMAGE | Tallest Building in the World

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the photo from your Week 2 folder.*
- This is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. It is the tallest building in the world. **How tall do you think it is?** It is 828 meters, which is 2,717 feet. It has more than 2,000 rooms, has an observation deck at the top, and it takes only two minutes to get to the top floor using the elevator. This building took more than five years to build.
- Today, we're going to hear about another tower. But unlike the Burj Khalifa, the tower in today's story was never completed.

THE BIG IDEA | We can obey God by putting God first.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:*
 - *Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.*
 - *Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).*
 - *Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.*
 - *Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.*
- This week's Big Idea: **We can obey God by putting God first.**

BIBLE STORY | Genesis 11:1-9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- Last week, we learned about when the earth was flooded. After the great flood, God wanted Noah's descendants to spread out all over the earth so the earth would be filled with people again. But we learned in our story today that the people decided to settle down in one area and build a tower.
- **Why did the people decide to build a tower?** Their only focus was themselves. The Bible says they wanted to "make a name for themselves." They didn't believe that God knew best. They didn't want God to be in charge because they wanted to be in charge.
- They were disobeying God by choosing not to follow what He wanted them to do. So God decided to do something to stop them. **Do you know what He did?** That's right, He confused their language!
- **Why do you think God confused their language?** Don't you think it would be difficult to work together on a big project if none of us could understand what each other was saying?
- God wanted to show that He knew what was best for them. He wanted to show them that it's more important to follow Him than try to live for themselves.
- God didn't want the people He loved to continue to disobey Him. He cared about them and found a way to stop them from sinning.
- God also doesn't want us to live for ourselves. But it's our choice: we have to choose to follow God and put Him first.
- God loves you and cares for you more than anything, and He wants you to know that choosing to obey is more important than choosing to obey yourself. You can choose to put God first.

POLL | How many languages can you speak?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have all kids stand up, then ask the question. Tell them to stay standing if they can speak at least one language. Then tell them to stay standing if they can speak at least two languages, and so on. You can use a piece of paper or dry erase board to write down the different languages the kids know or choose a phrase like, "Hi. How are you?" and have kids share how they say it in a different language. Optional: Have the word "hello" written out in five different languages. Teach them to your group. You could also bring in someone from your church who speaks another language and let them speak for the kids so they can experience how hard it can be to hear someone speaking in a language they don't understand.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *If any of your preteens have been someplace different or speak other languages, let them share with the group about their experiences.*
- **How many languages do you think exist in the world today?** There are more than 6,500 known spoken languages in the world! Most of them only have a small number of people speaking them.
- It's pretty awesome how there are so many different languages in the world today. **If you could learn a new language right now, which one would you want to learn?**

ACTIVITY | Line Up

- Every person is unique and different, but we are all created by God. Let's play a game where we put ourselves in order based on different qualities that are different about us. Your Double Dog Dare is that you have to play this game without talking! You will have to get creative with how you communicate with each other.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the kids into teams of ten. If you have a small group, they can just be one team. Separate the teams so they have space to play. Tell them to line up according to each statement you read. Each time, designate where the lowest and the highest side of the line will be. Then let them race and see which team can correctly line up the fastest.
 - You can use statements such as . . .
 - Shortest to tallest.
 - The month of your birthday.
 - Who lives the closest to church.
 - Your shoe size.
 - The number of letters in your first name.
 - Your birthday (the date in the month).
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** For this game, assign a “buddy” to the child with special needs. This will help them understand the questions, communicate more effectively, and navigate the game.
- **Was it hard to play this game when you couldn’t talk to your friends?**
- **How was this game like our Bible story?**
- **Do you think it was hard for the people to talk to each other when they couldn’t understand each other’s languages?**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Mixed Up Instructions

- We have a new challenge for our next Double Dog Dare of the day! You’ll get a set of LEGO blocks and some instructions. You have to use the instructions to build your towers. The first team to complete the challenge using their instructions wins.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the Mixed Up Instructions printable and give one to each small group of kids. Give them a set of LEGO Blocks. Set a timer for two minutes and tell them to use their instructions to build the tower. If they get confused, just encourage them to keep going.
- It’s easy to see that it would be much easier to get around a country or to finish building something together if everyone spoke and understood the same language! In our story from the Bible, we saw how God made people start speaking different languages to confuse them because they were being disobedient to God.

SCRIPTURE | John 3:30

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Ask them to share some sins they have struggled with and what they can do to let God help them overcome them.
- This verse was written by John the Baptist. God gave him the responsibility to prepare the hearts of the people to meet Jesus by teaching people about Jesus and asking them to turn away from their sin.
- John was someone who knew that living for God was way more important than living for himself, and this gave him a lot of joy.
- By choosing to follow God, you allow Him to be greater in your life than yourself, and this can bring you a lot of joy, too.

ACTIVITY | Extreme Simon Says

- We've all heard of Simon Says, but this version is a special Double Dog Dare challenge! When you get out, you will go wait in the Slime Zone. After two minutes, everyone who is in the Slime Zone (or maybe just some of you) will get slimed!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Stand in front of the kids and tell them different actions to do, mirroring them as you say them. but they should only do them if you say "Simon Says" first. If you don't say "Simon Says," and they do it, they are out. Every time someone gets out, they have to go to the Slime Zone. After two minutes of playing the game, the kids in the Slime Zone will get a poncho (or a trash bag with a head hole cut out) and a plastic shower cap. You can dump slime on their heads (or choose two lucky kids from the Slime Zone to get slimed). Say the commands quickly, and act them out, even when you don't say Simon Says, to throw them off.*

STORY | Share about a time when you have been to another country.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have a leader share about a time when they went to another country where people spoke a different language. They can share how it felt to be in a new culture different from their own. Remember to have the leader explain their experience positively without mocking the language or the culture.*
- **How do you think it feels to be somewhere where you can't understand what people are saying?**
- **Why do you think God separated the people in the Bible by giving them different languages?**

OBJECT LESSON | Double Dog Dare Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Double Dog Dare Challenge for Week 2 and pass them out to all the kids.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Give some examples of how we can put God first. Write some examples on the printed Double Dog Dare handout for the child with special needs to review at home.*
- It's time for our double dog dare challenge of the week! Your Double Dog Dare challenge of the week is to **put God first!** I dare you to think of the most creative way to put God first in your life this week.
- Come back next week and share with us how your challenge went!

MEMORY VERSES | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.*

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did God command the people to do?** *(Spread throughout the earth.)*
- **Why do you think the people disobeyed God?**
- **Why do you think God didn't want the people building the tower?**
- **What are some things God commands us to do?**
- **How can you choose to put God first?**

SCRIPTURE | II John 1:6

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **What do you think it means to walk in love?**
- **Is it easy or difficult to walk in love?**

ACTIVITY | Stack Attack

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each small group a stack of 21 cups and a timer. Challenge the kids to stack them all into a pyramid and then back into one single stack in under a minute. Let the kids take turns trying to complete this challenge. If it's too easy for them, challenge them to try it with their eyes closed.
- **How difficult would this challenge be if you couldn't see?**
- **What made it difficult for the people to keep working on their tower?**
- **How do you think the people in the Bible story felt when God put a stop to them building their tower?**

MEMORY VERSES | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5

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