WEEK 9

The Tall Tower

Big Idea: God is loving. He is never proud.

Memory Verse

***"My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands"* (Proverbs 3:1).**

Word of the Week

"Proud" - A proud person thinks they are more special or important than others. Usually people who are very proud of themselves feel as if they don't need God or anyone else to help them.

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 11:1-9** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 117-124.

Sunday

Life in a New World

The ark rested on top of a high mountain. Noah and his family stood by the boat and looked all around. The world had changed so much and looked very different now. There were no more smooth mountains; no more jewels on the ground; no more grand, tall trees.

Even though their new world was very different, Noah and his family could still trust that God would be with them. God would help them turn this soggy earth and rubble into a beautiful place to live. Just like the bright green grass shoots poking through the mud, they would start again.

As always, God had a plan. Right before He hung the rainbow of promise in the sky, God asked Noah and his family to do something. He said, "Have many children. Grow in number and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1, ICB). Noah's small family were to become a big family of God's children.

And so God's family began their new life in the freshly cleaned world. What did Noah become? Read **Genesis 9:20**.



They planted new farms, grew new food, and had many children and grandchildren. Each day Noah chose to follow God and His ways. God says in the Bible, "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands" (Proverbs 3:1). Just like Noah, you can choose to follow God's way every day.

I Wonder

» Have you ever traveled to a place that looks very different from the way your home does?

» What choices would Noah's family need to make in this new world?

Prayer Idea

Say a prayer of commitment to follow God's way.

Do

On thick paper, draw a large arrow sign pointing toward heaven. Have a parent or caregiver write your prayer of commitment on the arrow. Hang it up to remind you of your decision.



Monday

Evil and Sadness, Again?

Noah smiled as he looked up at the bright rainbow, shining in the sky. What a beautiful reminder of God's love! He hoped his big family would always smile when they saw it and always love God. But sadly, little by little, Ham stopped being God's friend.

In time, Noah's family grew bigger and bigger. Soon there were lots of people in the world again. Every person had a choice to follow God or not. Sadly, many chose to turn away from God. Ham's children learned to be unkind and mean, like their father. Their children learned to be like that too. They were proud and selfish.

Everyone had been living in the mountains near the ark. But one day the people who didn't want to follow God anymore became tired of listening to their cousins talk about God. They packed up their things and moved down the mountain to live on the flat land near a big river. Here they could forget about God and do things their own way.

Each day we can choose to follow God, or not. The Bible helps to guide us in making good choices. What does God say about obeying Him? Read **Proverbs 3:1**.

Sometimes it's hard to choose God's way, but He promises to help us when we ask Him.

I Wonder

» Do you think the people who chose to forget God would be happy? Why or why not?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you make good choices every day so you can be happy and show His love to your family.

Do

Can you think of five choices you made today? What clothes you wore; if you used your manners . . . Which ones were important? Who can help you make good choices?

Memory Verse

Tuesday

A Proud Plan

The people who lived on the flat land slowly became more and more proud. "We are the best!" they said. "We are the strongest and the smartest!" They wanted to become the most powerful leaders of the whole world.

God had asked them to spread out around the earth, but they didn't like that idea. They wanted to live together in one place. What did they begin to make? Read **Genesis 11:3**.

Hmmm, they thought, *now we have all of these bricks. Let's use them to build the biggest and best city in the whole world!*

"They said to each other, 'Let's build for ourselves a city and a tower. And let's make the top of the tower reach high into the sky. We will become famous. If we do this, we will not be scattered over all the earth' " (Genesis 11:4, ICB).

Everyone on the flat land thought this was a great idea! They wanted lots of attention. They wanted to be powerful, like God. But although God is powerful, He is also loving, kind, and humble. God is loving and never proud. They were not like God at all. The Bible says, "When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. . . . Think and act like Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:3-5, ICB).

I Wonder

» Why did the people want to build a tall tower that reached high into the sky?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to be humble and ready to learn from Him.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Talk about gifts that God has given you and how you are using them to serve Him. Then point out some great talents your child is developing. Remind them that everything we have is from God—not ourselves.





Wednesday

Building to Heaven

Day after day the people worked hard, making bricks, baking bricks, and laying bricks. So many bricks! Up, up, up—higher and higher the tower grew.

Oh, what a marvelous tower it was going to be! They couldn't wait to hear people say, "Your tower is amazing! You are the best! Everybody knows about you and your tower!"

Every day they laid more bricks. They wanted their tower to reach right up to heaven! They worked hard and felt proud. And the Tower of Babel grew taller.

Some people started living in the lowest part of the tower. They filled their fancy rooms with wooden and stone idols. They thanked their idol gods for helping them.

Standing high on the walls, they looked down and proudly said, "Another flood will never reach *us*!"

They didn't trust God at all. They were sure *their* plans were better than God's plans. What does the Bible say about this thinking?
Read **Proverbs 21:30**.

God saw what they were doing. He said, "These people are united. They all speak the same language. This is only the beginning of what they will do" (Genesis 11:6, ICB). Their sin and pride could hurt the whole world. The people must be stopped!

Fast Fact

The tallest sandcastle in the world was built in Denmark. It was more than 65 feet (20 meters) high. That is taller than a four-story building. What a lot of sand!

I Wonder

» What is the tallest building/tower you have ever seen?

» I wonder what God will do to stop the Tower of Babel from being finished?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He always has a perfect plan.

Do

Tell this week's Bible story (in your own words) to someone in your family using toys or blocks.

Memory Verse

Thursday

The Big Mix-up

Bang, bang! Clang, clang! It was early in the morning, but the builders were already hard at work. Their tower was now so tall that the people at the top couldn't talk to the people at the bottom. Men stood along the path to call out messages.

God looked down on all the busyness. It must be stopped! God said, "Come, let us go down and confuse their language. Then they will not be able to understand each other" (Genesis 11:7, ICB).

Up until now, everyone in the whole world had spoken the same language. But suddenly everyone in the city started speaking strange words they had never heard before! Nothing made sense! Workers shouted for more bricks, but different sounds came out. Some may have called out *"Ziegel!"*; some may have called out *"Ladrillos!"*; others may have called out *"Batu bata!"*; and others *"Izitini!"**

Brand-new words were shouted up and down the tower. The messengers looked on, confused. People became angry and yelled louder, but it didn't help. Everyone was cranky and confused.

Work on the huge tower stopped. A bright streak of lightning flashed through the sky, hitting and breaking the top of the tower. It fell to the ground with a big crash. What a mess! What happened next? Read **Genesis 11:8**.

The tower was never finished. People soon found others who spoke the same words, and they moved away together, spreading out all over the earth.

* Note: The word for "bricks" in German is *ziegel*; in Spanish, *ladrillos*; in Indonesian, *batu bata*; and in Zulu, *izitini*.

I Wonder

» Do you know any words in another language? Share them.

» What do you think the people were thinking as they left the city of Babel?

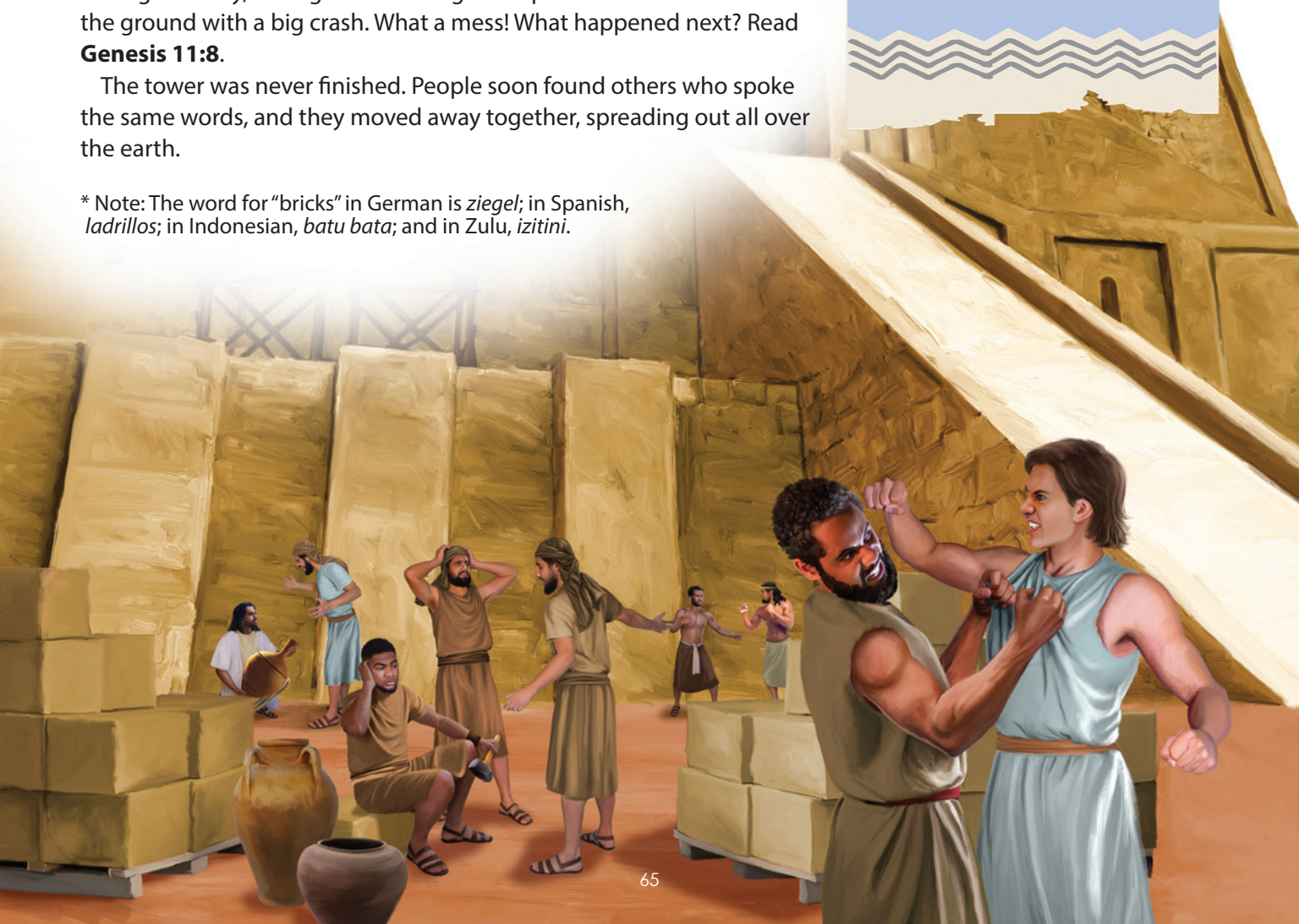
Prayer Idea

Thank God for knowing the best way for us to live.

Do

Learn how to say such words as "please," "thank you," "hello," and "God bless you" in another language. Practice your new words.

Memory Verse





Friday

A God of Love

High up on the mountain there were many of Noah's relatives who chose to be God's friends. They loved God and wanted to obey Him. They found out that "happy are the people whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 144:15, ICB). Shem's family would one day have Jesus in their family!

The people who left Babel spread across the world. Some went to the hills, some to the seaside, and others sailed on boats to new lands.

Wherever they went, God would be there. Some would stay proud and not choose God. But God would always work on their hearts and love them. God tells us He looks after us like a . . . what? Read **Ezekiel 34:11**. What a loving God!

God's plan for people to fill the whole world happened. Nothing–not even the evil choices of others--can stop God's plans. And nothing would stop God's plan to come down and save us from the sin in the world.

I Wonder

» What do you think makes God smile when He thinks of you?

» What countries do you know the names of? (Look at a map/globe.)

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His love that is never far away—no matter where we live in the world.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Start at the bottom of a new page in your journal. On each line, write something you can do to follow God's way. Place each idea on the line above the previous idea, until you have built a "tall tower" of ways to live for God.

For You, Parents

"Christ did not ask His Father to take the disciples out of the world, but to keep them from the evil in the world, to keep them from yielding to the temptations which they would meet on every hand. This prayer fathers and mothers should offer for their children"
(Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 22).

God's Preacher Kids and Their Miracle Message

"The hour of His judgment is come," called out the little girl. Her family watched the 5-year-old in wonder. Just minutes before, she had opened her mouth and sung out a beautiful hymn. She had never been taught the tricky words of the long song—she'd never even been taught to sing! In fact, the little girl could not even read or write. And yet here she was preaching powerfully to her family, telling them all to give their hearts to Jesus, for He was coming soon!

Her family knew her words were a miracle. They asked God for forgiveness. They wanted to be ready for Jesus to come!

It was the year 1843 in Sweden, and God was doing something amazing! From town to town kids just like you began to share the good news of Jesus as if they were grown-ups. At this time in Sweden it was against the law to preach anything that didn't agree with the one religion of the country. Bible truths had been forgotten. People were proud and didn't want to change. So God sent children to preach. He gave them the right words to say. God's message of love would not be stopped!

One of the preacher kids was a little 8-year-old boy who had never learned his alphabet. A priest who was upset by the boy's preaching tried to prove it was a trick. But he couldn't! The young boy could quote Bible verses that he couldn't read and had never heard before.

Soon teenagers joined in preaching too. They told others about the Bible and Jesus' second coming. Large groups of people gathered, both day and night, to listen to the kids preach. God helped these children to tell others about Him!

"You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples" (Psalm 77:14).

Do

Practice saying your memory verse out loud and share it up front in Sabbath School or church. Pray that God will use your words to change someone's heart.

For You, Parents

Read John Loughborough's report and eyewitness accounts in *The Great Second Advent Movement: Its Rise and Progress*, pp. 180-187.

