

Confusion: Dispersion at Babel

God punished sin by changing the people's language.



K-1st Lesson

Introduction

- Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. Who can tell me which of the Seven C's we've been talking about lately? *Catastrophe.*

Refer to the Lessons 26 and 27 Flip Chart Pages as you review. That's right. We've been learning all about the great catastrophe—the worldwide flood.

- Who did God keep safe through the flood? *Noah and his family and two of every kind of land animal.*
- Refer to the Lesson 28 Flip Chart Page. What happened after the flood? *Allow discussion.*

It was the ice age, right? The things that happened during the flood made it perfect for the ice age to happen. It got very cold and began to snow. It snowed for a very long time, and after many years the snow and ice piled up—and we had the ice age.

Refer to the Genesis Timeline Poster. Remember, there was only ONE ice age and it was only about 4,000 years ago after the worldwide flood.

What Is a Language?

- Today we are going to talk about something else that happened after the flood was over! It has to do with languages. What is a language, does anyone know? *The words we use to speak to each other.*

Right! A language is the set of words we use to speak to each other. I'm speaking to you right now in our language (English or other), and you can understand me. But if you go to other places, you might hear people talking in some other language. If you went to Japan, you would hear Japanese, or in Mexico you would hear Spanish.

- There are all kinds of languages in the world. Can you name some others? *Allow answers.*

There's German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Irish, Hawaiian, Hebrew, and Russian. And that's only a few of them. People say things in many different ways. Some people who are deaf and cannot hear speak by using their hands in a special language called sign language.

- How many of you have heard people speaking other languages or have seen someone using sign language? *Allow answers.*
- How many of you can speak in a different language? *Allow answers.*

Languages all sound different, and some are very interesting. Did you know there are over 6,000 languages around the world today?

God's Command

- But where did all these languages come from? Let's find out! Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. We are going to read from God's Word now. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is in your Bible. Let them look at it.*

Genesis 11:1

Listen carefully! This is from Genesis 11:1. *Read Genesis 11:1 emphasizing "one language" and "the same words."*

- So, how many languages were in the whole earth at this time? What did this verse say? *One.*
- Yes. That means all the people in the world at that time spoke the same words—in the same language.

You see, when the flood was all over, Noah and his family got off the ark. After a while their families got bigger. Their families had families, and soon the world had lots of people again. And they could all understand each other perfectly because they all spoke the same language.

- Refer to the globe or world map. They also were all living in the same place. But God told the people to take their families and to fill the WHOLE earth. That means God wanted them to move to different places all over the world and fill it up with people.

The Reason for Confusion

Refer to the globe. God wanted everyone to spread out. He wanted them to move away from each other and find new places to build their homes. But the people didn't want to do what God said. They liked being together in one place. They didn't want to leave.

Genesis 11:4

Listen to what they DID want to do! *Read Genesis 11:4. Emphasize "build ourselves a city and a tower."*

- Did you hear what God's Word said? What were the people planning to build? *A city and a tower.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. They wanted to build a city and a tall tower because they wanted to stay together. The people didn't want to be dispersed, or scattered, around the world. They didn't want to obey God.

- And how high did the people want their tower to go? *To the heavens.*

Yes. They wanted their tower to be VERY tall! So they made bricks and started building.

- When the people decided to build a tower and stay together, were they obeying God? *No.*
- What do we call it when we do not obey God? *Disobeying. Sin!*
- How does God feel about sin? *He doesn't like it! God hates sin.*

That's right. God is holy and just. He does not like sin. And when these people decided to disobey God, he had to punish them.

Genesis 11:7

Listen to this verse and tell me what God's punishment was for these people. *Read Genesis 11:7 emphasizing "confuse their language" and "may not understand one another's speech."*

- What did God do to punish the people for their sin? Did you hear it? *Confused their language.*
- Do you know what that means? *Allow discussion. They couldn't understand each other because they were all speaking different languages.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. God confused the people by making them speak different languages. They couldn't understand each other anymore! Can you imagine doing your work and talking with your friend, then suddenly the words coming out of your friend's mouth don't make any sense?! All around you people are speaking in languages you don't know and can't understand. And you can't figure out what they are saying to you.

- What do you think that would be like? *Allow discussion.*

It might have been a little like this. See if you can understand what I'm saying. *Say the following words ("hello" in different languages): bonjour (bohn-ZHOOR), ciao (chow), guten tag (GOO-ten tahk), aloha (ah-LO-ha), li ho (LEE-ho).*

- Did you understand any of those words? *Allow discussion.*

Those were all different languages, but I was saying "hello" each time. If you don't know those languages, then you wouldn't understand what I was saying. That's how it was when God confused the language. People didn't know what everyone else was saying anymore.

The People Scatter

That was the punishment God brought on the people. He changed the one language they all spoke into many different languages. Dads and moms and their own kids probably spoke the same way, but they couldn't understand the other families. It was all very confusing.

Genesis 11:8-9

Now I want you to listen to this. God told us what he did after he changed their language. *Read Genesis 11:8-9.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. How many of you have heard of the tower of Babel? *Show of hands.*

The word Babel means "confusion," so that place was called Babel because that's where the people were building their tower when God confused them.

- Why did God do this? *Allow discussion. To punish sin.*
- That's right. The people disobeyed God and sinned against him. But God is holy, and he must punish all sin. And he did that by changing their language and making new ones.
- What did the Lord do after that? *He dispersed them over the face of all the earth.*

Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. Yes. This is the fourth C—Confusion. God made the people move and scatter all over the earth. That's what he told them to do in the first place, right? They stopped building their tower and their city because they couldn't understand each other anymore. The different families moved away from each other, and they went all over the world just like God wanted them to do from the very beginning.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

God must punish sin. God confused the language.

