

Lesson 29

Confusion: Dispersion at Babel

God punished sin by changing the people's language.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Prayer Page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and say thank you to God.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you so much for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Where do you learn how to love and obey God? In the Bible.
Where is God? God is everywhere.
Can you see God? No. I cannot see God, but he always sees me.
Does God know all things? Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.

Bible Pass Around

Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number choose a number. (You may also choose to recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.) We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word), you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready for it in our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. Begin the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.

K-1st Lesson continues next.

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Review

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

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 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 kind 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. 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.

God's Command

So 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 "same words."

So, how many languages were in the whole earth at this time? What did this verse say? One.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

Yes. 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 spoke the same language and used the same words.

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.

As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart to keep the children engaged.

Refer to the Flip Chart. The people didn't want to obey God. So they decided to stay together and build a city and a tall tower that reached way up high.

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. And guess what the punishment was? God changed the one language into many 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?!

What do you think that would be like? When suddenly nobody could understand each other? Allow discussion.

If you know someone who speaks a different language, have him or her read some of the Scripture or start talking to the students in the different language.

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 know what I was saying. That's how it was when God confused the language. No one knew what anyone else was saying anymore.

The People Scatter

That was the punishment from God. 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 11:9

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

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.

Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. This is the fourth C—Confusion. The people disobeyed God and sinned against him. God dispersed them. That means God made them 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 below.

K-1st Lesson

Review

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

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Refer to the Genesis 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

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

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.

As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart to keep the children engaged.

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.

If you know someone who speaks a different language, have him or her read some of the Scripture or start talking to the students in the different language.

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.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

Review Questions
Two beanbags
Three laundry baskets or boxes
Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

Review Questions
Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

Review Questions
Three chairs set out for bases
Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

Review Questions
Six to ten empty water bottles
Softball or other small playground ball
Masking tape
Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

- Review Questions
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and “wild” written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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Bible Version

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