

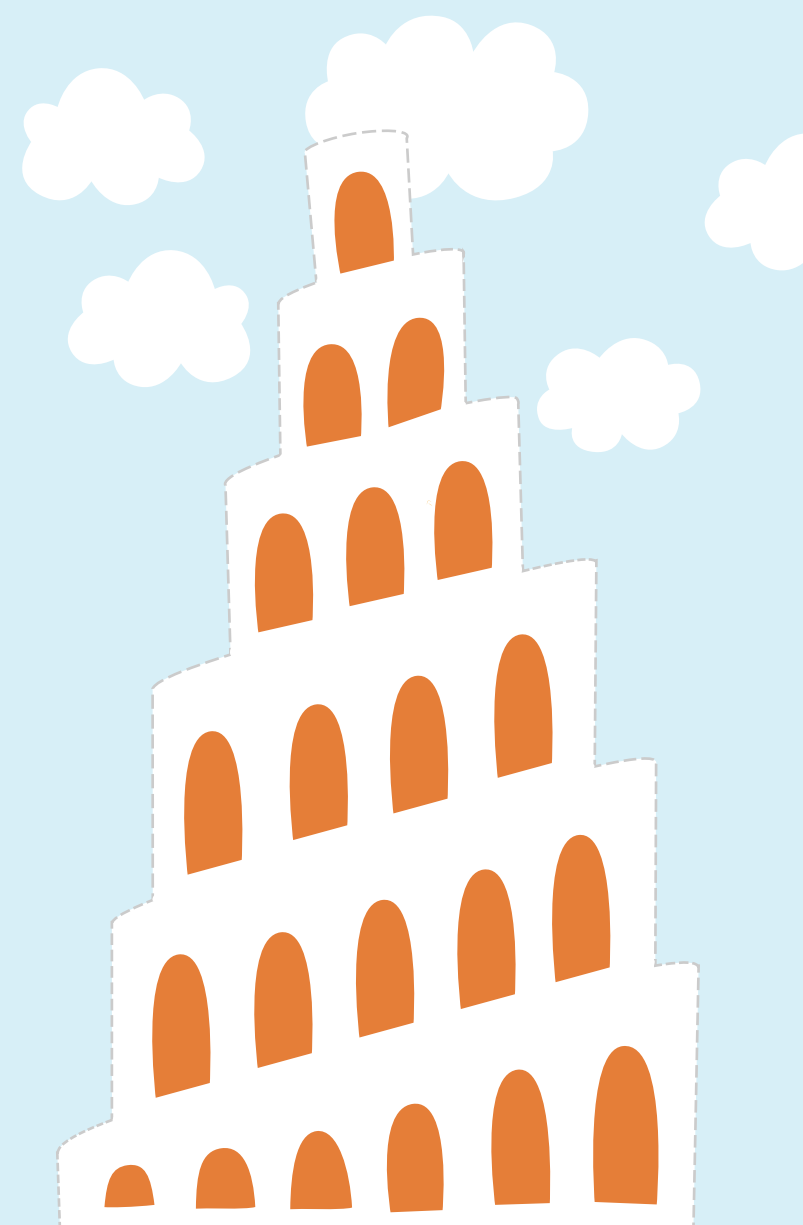
# A Towering Problem at Babel

God honors obedience and resists the proud.

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding” (Isaiah 40:28).

1.5

Imagine the people's surprise when they began speaking different languages.  
Try reading the word “hello” in different languages.



Can you remember the story about the Tower of Babel?

Why were the people building a tower?

Why were they able to work and build together?

Were they following God's instructions to move across the earth?

How did God do to stop them from building?

I will allow God to be in control.

# MOVE!

## Genesis 11:1–9: The Tower of Babel

After the floodwaters receded, God told Noah, “Leave the boat, all of you—you, your wife, your sons, and their wives. Go and fill the earth.” God wanted people to spread across the entire world. Noah’s sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—obeyed and had many children.

Over time, Noah’s family became huge. Today there are many languages, but in the beginning, there was only one language. Everyone spoke the same language.

As one group of families traveled east, they came to a wide-open area called the plain of Shinar. Someone proudly suggested, “Let’s stay right here and build a tower that reaches into the sky—no more traveling for us. We can bake bricks and stick them together with slime. Our tower will be so awesome that we’ll become famous. Then we won’t need to obey God and scatter across the earth.”

Because they spoke the same language, they could work and build together. They were proud to be one people, but God was not pleased. He wanted them to follow His command.

The builders thought they were doing something marvelous by building a city and a tower that would make them famous. They kept building their tower—up, up, up. With every brick, their pride increased.

God came down to see what His children were building. “Look, this building really is incredible, but they are not following Me. They are trying to be famous. This is not My plan.” God knew exactly how to stop them. He said, “These people are so full of pride. The only reason they can work together is because they speak one language. If I confuse their language, they won’t be able to work together.”

One day, as the builders were working hard on their tower, God took action and confused their language. Suddenly, everyone spoke different *lugha* (languages in Swahili), so they couldn’t build the *torre* (tower in Spanish) and become *berühmt* (famous in German). They tried to continue building the *turrim* (tower in Latin), but eventually in frustration, the building project came to a complete *yameru* (stop in Japanese). See how confusing that would be?

After God humbled the people of Babel, they finally followed Him by moving to different areas of the earth, just as God had planned. The word *babble* means “noisy confusion made by many voices,” which is exactly what God did to stop them. The proud people allowed their own desires to keep them from following God. James 4:6 lets us know that God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. The Tower of Babel serves as a reminder to follow because God honors obedience and resists the proud.