

# Family Worship Guide

## Week 7

### Read

- **Genesis 11:1-9**

Up until this point in the Bible, the whole world had one language - one common speech for all people. The people of the earth became skilled in construction and decided to build a city with a tower that would reach to heaven. By building the tower they wanted to make a name for themselves and also prevent their city from being scattered. God came to see their city and the tower they were building. He perceived their intentions, and in His infinite wisdom, He knew this "stairway to heaven" would only lead the people away from God. He noted the powerful force within their unity of purpose. As a result, God confused their language, causing them to speak different languages so they would not understand each other. By doing this, God thwarted their plans. He also scattered the people of the city all over the face of the earth.

- **Questions**

**1. Have you ever wondered how all the different languages of the world came to be? In the passage we just read, God gives us the true history of how different languages began. How would you describe what God did?** *Up until this time, all of Noah's descendents spoke one language. Because of the people's pride and disobedience at the tower of Babel, God caused different groups to begin speaking different languages. These people then gathered together in their language groups and began to spread out around the earth.*

**2. In verse 4, we learn that the people in Shinar did two things that were against God. What was the first one?** *The text says, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves..." The first sin of the people at Babel was pride. They wanted to be famous! Talk as a family about how you see people seeking fame today.*

**3. The second sin is harder to find, but it is also found in verse 4. Can anyone see it?** *The verse tells us that the people would "not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." What was the first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve, and then again to Noah's family? Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. God wanted the earth filled with people for His glory, but the people of Babel wanted to stay where they were.*

**4. God continues to call His people to action! He calls us to reach out every day to show love to our family members and to our neighbors. More than that, God wants His people thinking about reaching the whole world for Christ. How might God be calling our family to take the focus off of ourselves, and work together to make a difference in the world for Christ?** *It may help to break this conversation into categories. Talk about what it would mean to grow as a family in serving each other and helping each other grow spiritually. From there, talk about how God may be asking our family to serve in the*

*church. Then talk about the opportunities God may be giving you in your neighborhood, in the nation, and in the world..*

## Praise

- Praise God for giving us:  
Himself  
Grace and Mercy  
Salvation  
Our family  
Our church family?
- What has God done in our family this week that we can give him praise?

## Pray

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION – “God is worthy of our worship because he is Holy.”
- CONFESSION – “Confess our wrongs”
- THANKSGIVING – How has God blessed you? ....
- SUPPLICATION – “The God of the Universe invites us to share our needs and requests with Him. Like a loving Father, He loves to bless us. Let’s ask God for the things we need.”
- Pray that we will live obediently to God’s Word.
- Pray for your neighbors by name! Pray that God will bless them!
- Pray for our communities.

## Memorize

**Genesis 1:28**–“God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.”

## Digging Deeper

(Optional activities)

### Kids Fun

#### Option 1

Supplies needed:

Whatever you decide to use

**To get our family worship time started tonight, we are going to have a competition. Every person will be on their own, except for little ones who can find a partner. I wonder who will win? I wonder who will be the best? Well, let’s find out. The competition is this. Who can build the highest**

**tower? I am going to give us our building materials, and each of us has to build the highest tower possible. The one who has the highest tower at the end of the time is the winner. He or she will be the best.**

You have a lot of choices with what to use for building materials. Here are some options, 1) allow people to use anything they want, 2) a jar of coins, 3) laundry, or 4) books. Avoid things that might hurt someone if the tower falls! Once you have determined what building materials will be allowed, you can begin!

**OK, I think we are ready to start. I am going to give you a maximum of five minutes to complete your tower. If it falls while you are building it, rebuild as fast as you can. When the time is up...the time is up... and our champion will be crowned. Begin!**

When the time is up ask the winner to stand up, perhaps even stand on a stool or chair in front of the family. Give them a chance to bow, while the rest of the family applauds.

**You all did a great job building your towers. Of course we had a winner, and we made a big deal about it. How did it feel to win? How did it feel to stand up and have everyone applaud for you? What about the rest of us...those of us that didn't win? How did it feel to lose? How did it feel to not be the one to stand up and be recognized?**

**Even in a little game like this, feelings of pride can creep into our hearts. Feelings of jealousy and sadness can be there as well. In a few minutes we are going to open the Bible and read about a historical event with a real tower...and real pride.**

## For Teens

1. Open your Bible to Genesis 10:9-10. Get a piece of paper and write down the name of the first great ruler of the land of Shinar (also known as Sumer).
2. Go forward to Genesis 11:2. Write down where the tower of Babel was built.
3. We know that the tower was not completed, and was abandoned because God confused the language of the people. However, this is not the last time that history mentions this tower. In 605BC (more than 1500 years after the tower was originally built), King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon wrote an inscription about his detailed plans to rebuild the tower. You can find a translation of Nebuchadnezzar's inscription by searching the internet for "most ancient monument of Babylon." This will give you many citations of what Nebuchadnezzar said about this tower.
4. Write down all the ways that Nebuchadnezzar's writings agree with what the Bible says in Genesis 11.
5. Nebuchadnezzar identifies a particular location where the tower was built. The city of Borsippa, which is located in modern day Iraq.
6. Use Google Earth or another satellite mapping program, (or a book that has photographs of the ruins of the towers, pyramids, and ziggurats of the ancient world) - and search for "Borsippa, Iraq." What do you see?
7. Finally, go to wikipedia.com, search for "Borsippa" and read the first paragraph.