Lesson Overview

Big Idea: Don't try to be a famous person
Key Question: Why is fame bad for us?
Memory Verse: Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Philippians 2:3

Overview: Today, we're going to learn about a story from the book of Genesis, the very first book in the Bible. The people in this story were Noah's extended family. Remember, Noah was the guy who built the big boat to save all the people and animals from a huge flood. So, the people had been living a good life since the flood. Everything was going well and the people started to forget about God. They came up with an idea to build a huge tower that could reach all the way to heaven. Do you know why they wanted to do that? They wanted to be famous. They wanted to make a name for themselves. They wanted other people to see how great they were for building this tower. God was disappointed in their attitude and decided to teach them a lesson. One day, all the people starting talking in different languages and no one could understand each other. It sounded like a bunch of babble. So, the people couldn't finish building their tower because they couldn't talk to one another. God did this to show them that they couldn't do anything without him. The people in the story learned that lesson. We can learn from it, too. We shouldn't seek fame or attention for ourselves. We can't do anything without God.

Classroom Agenda

5 min | PLAY: Begin working on Activity Page #1.
5 min | WARM UP: Do you dream about being famous some day? What would you do to be famous? What would you do with all the money you would make?
5 min | PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)
20 min | LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
5 min | RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview from the Teacher's Guide to the class and then answer the KEY QUESTION.
5 min | EXPLORE: Read 1 John 2:16. What does the world want us to care about? What does God want us to care about?
10 min | PLAY: Do the group activity from Activity Page #2.
5 min | CLOSE: Share something you learned today.

Teacher Tips

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Have fun.

Allow each kid to share. Being really good at something isn't bad. But we have to be careful to have the right attitude. We shouldn't seek attention or fame for ourselves. We should always thank God for giving us the abilities to be good at whatever we do.

Answer: Fame tricks us into thinking we're more important than God.
This is what the Israelites learned with the tower of Babel. They thought they could do something great without God. They wanted all the credit and attention. But, the truth is, everything we do comes from God. We can't do anything without him. So, if you're really good at a sport or playing an instrument, don't do it to bring attention to yourself. Do it to bring honor to God who gave you the ability to do those things in the first place.

Bonus Questions: Why is fame bad for us? If you're really good at something, how can you give the attention to God over yourself?
4-5th: What are some other struggles that can come with being famous? (money, cocky, prideful). Can you name a famous person who is also a Christian? How are they doing at giving the attention to God over themselves?

The world wants us to elevate ourselves and make our own name great. The more popular we are, and the more stuff we have, the more successful we are. But God wants us to care more about loving others by showing them the love of Jesus. He doesn't want us to tell people how great we are. He wants us to tell people how great HE is.

Allow kids to share. Encourage them to be specific.
### Option #1

#### Memory Verse Tower Craft
- Give each kid a Tower Template. *(page 5).*
- Give each kid a piece of construction paper.
- Have kids cut out each tower block and have them glue each one, in the right order, onto their construction paper to make a tower. *(verse at the top).*
- As the kids work, remind them that being good at something isn’t bad but having a prideful attitude is. Instead of wanting to bring attention to themselves, they should bring attention to God.

#### Supplies needed
- Tower Template (pg. 5), 1 per kid
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

#### Bonus Activity:
**True or False game.**

See who’s the fastest to answer correctly.
1. The people tried to build a pyramid. *(F)*
2. God wants us to be humble. *(T)*
3. Fame is good for us. *(F)*

### Option #2

#### Marshmallow Tower Game
- Divide the class into teams of 3.
- Give each team a baggie of marshmallows.
- When you say, “Go!”, have teams try to build the tallest tower with their marshmallows in 60 seconds. Once a team’s tower falls over, they’re out of that round. **Play a few times.**
- After the game, ask these questions:
  - Why did the people want to build a tower? *(they wanted to be famous by showing off what a great thing they had built.)*
  - How should we act when we’re good at something? *(humble, thankful for the skills God blessed us with to do it.)*

#### Supplies needed
- Large Marshmallows (several bags)
- Gallon baggies, 1 bag per team

#### Bonus Activity:
**Fast Facts.**

See who’s the fastest to answer correctly.
1. The people tried to build a ___(tower).
2. Fame is ___(bad) for us.
3. Who should get the credit for our talents? *(God).*
The Tower of Babel (Kids)

A long time ago, everyone had the same language. There was no English or Spanish or Chinese. There was just one language, and everyone knew how to speak it. That’s how the story of the Tower of Babel starts:

Genesis 11:1-2 (NLT) At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. 2 As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there.

The people _______ up to build a famous tower

God turned the people into a bunch of _________

Don’t try to be a __________ person

Talk About It:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Do you dream about being famous some day? What would you do to be famous? What would you do with all the money you would make?
3. What were the people trying to build? Why do you think they wanted to build it?
4. What did God do to the people? Why do you think he did that?
5. In your own words, what does it mean to be famous? Why is fame bad for us?
6. How should you act when you know you’re good at something?
7. Read 1 John 2:16. What does the world want us to care about? What does God want us to care about?
8. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Live It Out:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Read Proverbs 11:2. Pride means you think you’re the best. What are you good at? How can you protect yourself from becoming prideful in those things?
3. Read Colossians 3:12. What qualities should we have as followers of Jesus? Which ones do you need to work on the most?
4. Read Psalm 115:1. Who deserves all of our honor and praise? How can you thank God for the things you are good at in your life?
5. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Answers: joined, babblers, famous
PUZZLE #1

**BIG IDEA**

Don't be ______________; don't try to ______________ others. Be _______________, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Philippians 2:_____

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**PUZZLE #2**

**Tower of Babel**

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E C B H P H A G L R H O L R V H T
S L A A X O P P T P Z A H E H C K
O E B Q J Y N L R Z N L Q W F I D
X C E M P A B N K G N C A O Y L B
K S L L U H R R U O D R H W T I G J
D T Q L K H R A I Y M T T U T I U
B M D J K U G R W C A M B I E W V
S V P Q P E V S E N K F I V L C W
T H X Q S F A X M B T D J P S P J
Y A Z L D D F I P R I D E Y I R A
X O C L P V L D E R E T T A C S L
S I S N E F J U U H V S Q D D N H
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**Words to find:**

- BABEL
- BRICK
- BUILD
- HUMBLE
- LANGUAGES
- PRIDE
- SAD
- SCATTERED
- TOWER
Philippians 2:3

Don’t be selfish
don’t try to impress others

Be humble
Thinking of others

As better than yourselves