#### Lesson 6:

#### The First Skyscraper

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Genesis 11

MEMORY WORK:

Genesis 1:1

Days of Creation

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God has given me talents and expects me to use them, but He does not want me to take all the credit and forget about Him. God must come first, and we should give God the glory, not ourselves.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Who was the first shipbuilder? We studied about Noah last week and how he walked with God, and we want to obey like Noah. Today, we are going to learn about the first skyscraper. Briefly explain what a skyscraper is. We are going to learn about the Tower of Babel. We are going to see the right attitude we should have when we study this story.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. After the Flood, God told Noah and his family that they should have many children and fill the Earth with people. Noah’s family moved eastward from the mountains of Ararat where the ark came to rest.
2. They decided to settle in the plains of Shinar, an area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, which would later become the great Babylonian Empire. (That area was also part of what later became known as “The Fertile Crescent.”) The people (called the “sons of men,” 11:5), under the direction of Nimrod, a great-grandson of Noah, decided to build a great city there and a tower that would reach into heaven.
3. There were many possible reasons for this great building project. They wanted to make a name for themselves, i.e., to be known then and through the ages as the people who built **the** tower into heaven. They also wanted to be able to stay together and not be scattered all over the Earth as God commanded them (Genesis 9:1), and they wanted to show their self-reliance and independence from God. They were full of pride and self-confidence.
4. The people were very smart. They knew how to make bricks, how to use mortar to put the bricks together, and how to design and build great structures. (Mud was used to make sun-dried bricks instead of stone, and asphalt/tar or bitumen was used as mortar. Many scholars think that tar may have seeped through the ground, as it did in the LaBrea Tar Pits of California. So it was readily accessible.)

**NOTE:** The Sumerians and the Babylonians would later build towers. Their towers were called “ziggurats”; they were built mainly for the purpose of idol worship. Shrines to the idols were on top of the towers so that ordinary men could communicate with their gods.

1. God knew what the people were doing, and He did not like it. He was angry about the building of the great tower and angry that the people decided on their own not to scatter all over the Earth as He had told them. He was angry that they had such an arrogant, self-sufficient attitude, thinking more and more about their own work and less and less about the God who gave them their strength and knowledge. He knew that they eventually would forget about Him entirely and begin to worship the things they made.
2. They were very proud of themselves and **pride** is a sin against God.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**What was the Sin at**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=1004)[**Babel?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=1004)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for further study on that subject.

**Pride:** means to be pleased with oneself, especially because of something you own or something you have done; to be conceited, arrogant, or haughty

1. God decided to stop the building of the tower. From the Flood to the time of Babel, all men still spoke the same language. It was easier for them to work together (and sin together!) if they all spoke the same language. God decided to stop the building of the tower, and the quickest way to do that was to make them speak many different languages so that they could not all work together. (Discuss how it must have been to suddenly not be able to communicate with those around you.)

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**Only One Language**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=760)[**before Babel?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=760)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for further study on the alleged biblical discrepancy that Genesis 10:5,20,31 contradict 11:1.

1. The people were forced to stop building, and they moved all over the Earth, as God had previously instructed them.

**NOTE:** We do not know how much time passed between the Flood and the building of the tower of Babel, but it is possible that Noah may have been alive during this time, and even more likely that his sons were alive also. Genesis 9:28 says that Noah lived 350 years after the Flood, and 11:10 says that Shem lived 502 years after the Flood (Genesis 10:5,32; 11:9).

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**Peleg, Pangea,**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=4650)[**and the Division of the Earth**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=4650)” by Kyle Butt and “[**The Origin of Language and**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=12&amp;article=1351)[**Communication**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=12&amp;article=1351)” for a study about the meaning of Peleg in Genesis 10 and a study of the origin of language and the problems it presents for evolution.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book; skip card 4.3)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file
* .Pictures of towers/ziggurats built by Sumerians and Babylonians

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

##### “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

Author: Unknown\* (Tune: See Internet)

He’s got the whole world, in His hands. (3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got the little bitty babies, in His hands. (3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got you and me, brother, in His hands.(3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got you and me, sister, in His hands. (3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got the mommas and the daddies, in His hands. (3X)

He’s got the whole world in His hand

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* + Help the children build towers. Possible materials could include :
    - Sugar cubes and frosting or glue
    - Playdoh and pipe cleaners
    - Large cardboard blocks, Legos, or wooden blocks.
* As the children are building their towers, talk about the people’s attitudes toward God (they did not want to obey; they thought they were smarter than God, etc.).

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Since this is a short lesson, it would be a good time to do a general review of the previous lessons of the quarter. The Candyland board would work well for this or use the classroom flashcards. Refer to review questions from lessons 1-6.

### Review Questions

### Who was the king of Babel?

### Nimrod

### Who was Nimrod?

### The great-grandson of Noah

### How did God feel about them building a tower to heaven?

### He was displeased.

### What had God wanted the people to do?

### He wanted them to scatter across the world and not all live in one place.

### How did God stop the building of the tower?

### He made them start speaking in different languages, so that they couldn’t understand each other.

### What did the people do?

### They were forced to stop working on the tower and to move all over the Earth just like God had wanted them to.

### Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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