



People Rebel Against God | Oct 24, 2021 | 3rd - 5th grade

God created everything and everything He created was good. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve and spread to impact everyone. God shows His goodness that despite our sin He desires a relationship with us.

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 10-11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do we need a rescuer? God created everything and it was good, but sin wrecked the world and separated us from God.

CHRIST'S CONNECTION: People wanted glory for themselves instead of God. They ignored God's plan, so God confused their language and scattered them all over the earth. One day, Jesus will gather together all of God's people—from every tribe and language—and they will worship Him together.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

BIBLE PASSAGE CONTEXT

We love to measure the health, success, or sustainability of pretty much anything and everything. We measure our kids by their grades in school. We measure teams by their wins and losses. We measure people by their influence and following on social media. In a world obsessed with measuring "success", we ought to be assessing in our own lives something we cannot see: our motivation.

We can define motivation simply as the reason we do something. Motivation is the driving force behind decisions we make. There is a reason for everything that we do- both big and small- but what that motivation is might not be obvious to those around us.

In Genesis 11, Noah's family had grown and began to rebuild the earth's population. At some point along the way, they decided to ignore God's command to spread out and subdue the earth for God's glory. Instead, the people decided to build a tower to show their greatness. Their motivation was both obvious and arrogant.

Read Psalm 127:1-2. These verses provide a blatant reminder that God is the only true builder. His glory is our only proper motivation. Additionally, this psalm gives us a promise that those who love God will be able to rest from being driven by selfish motivation.

Doesn't it sound pretty attractive to be able to rest from selfish motivation that plagues so much of our thinking and behavior? In God's economy, He's less worried with the outcome of our decisions and more concerned with the reason for our decisions. That's not to say that it doesn't matter what we do. Rather, if our motivation is right- if our hearts are right- our actions will follow. And not only will our motivation and behavior honor God, but much of the anxiety of life will fade away too.

When was the last time you measured your motivation? Is the driving force behind what you do making a name for yourself, your kids, or even your church? Or is the primary desire driving your life boasting in the name of Christ? Read Psalm 127:1 again. May we be driven by God's glory and not our own.

Places to Know:

Babel- Name given to the city and the tall tower that the disobedient descendants of Noah began to build so they would not be scattered over all the earth. Referred to as Babylon in some Bible translations.

TAKEAWAYS

- Sin is anything that goes against God's commands. It twists our understanding so that we ignore and disobey God.
- When God told the people to spread out around the earth and they stayed together, they sinned.
- When they tried to build a tower to make themselves famous instead of giving glory to God, they sinned.
- So that they wouldn't keep sinning, God confused their language and spread them out.
- **Bottom Line:** Whenever we go against God, it shows the problem deep in our hearts.

Small Group Prayer: "God, forgive us when we try to bring glory to ourselves and not to You. Help us to obey Your commands so we can honor You. Thank You that Jesus brings all tribes, nations, and tongues together to worship You. Amen."

SOCIAL ACTIVITY: Lego Challenge

What You Need: Lego sets and Lego Challenge Cards

What You Do

Lay out the legos and pull a challenge card.

Ask kids to work together or independently to create the best thing they can create to represent the challenge on the card you shared with them.

Read the card.

Ask this question: "Imagine you were in another country where people spoke a different language. Now imagine you are trying to ask for directions to a restroom. Are any of you learning to speak a second language? What do you think it would be like to be somewhere you don't understand what everyone is saying?"

What You Say: As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Bible teaching DVD/Roku

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Building Challenge

What You Need: construction materials

What You Do:

- Form two or three teams.
- Provide each team with a set of construction materials.
- Materials can be non-traditional like sugar cubes, craft sticks, cotton swabs, spaghetti and marshmallows, and so on.
- Challenge teams to build strong and tall towers.
- Explain that only one team member may modify the tower at a time, so kids must take turns.
- All players should participate equally.
- After a minute, inform the players that they may not longer talk to one another.
- After several minutes, let each team present its tower even if it is incomplete.

What You Say “We built a tower for fun, but the tower in today’s story was not built for fun. It was built in disobedience to God’s command. God confused the languages of the people so the people had to stop building. God created us to be in relationship with Him and with one another. His plan for us is best. God has commanded us to scatter and fill the earth. Part of our job on earth is to tell others about God. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new. He will gather all of His people, from every tribe and tongue, to worship the one true God together. Before we do our discussion questions, let’s pray for each other to be able to share Jesus with anyone. Who wants to pray? (Pray) Now, let’s look at our discussion questions. There are some good ones today.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Is being famous a sin?**
- **What excuses do you make when you disobey?**
- **Why did God confuse the people's language?** Help the kids to understand that the people did not obey God. God commanded them to scatter after the flood, filling the earth and glorifying God. Instead, the people settled in one place and tried to glorify themselves. God saw what was happening and confused their language so they would obey His command. Help the kids consider times when God may do something in our life that seems bad for us, but is actually for our own good.
- **Why does God deserve all glory?** Help the kids understand that God is worthy of all honor and glory because of who He is. God is our creator, our Sustainer, our Savior and our King. Only He is worthy of glory, honor, and praise because only He is perfect in every way. Help the kids to understand that God created people to bring Himself glory.
- **Will there ever be a time when all people are brought back together?** Help the kids understand that one day, Jesus will return. When He does, He will bring together all people who believe in Him from all tribes and tongues. Help kids to understand that there will be a new heaven and new earth where Jesus will reign forever. There, everyone will bring Jesus glory and honor and praise forever.
- **Can our disobedience stop God's good plan?** Remind kids that God is at work in the world and in control of all things. Our sin and rebellion separates us from God. We deserve God's judgment. But God loves us and offers us grace. We know from the Bible that in the end, Jesus will return and God's plans will succeed. Any rebellion against God will fail, but we can align ourselves with God through Jesus and part of His good plan. Read Psalm 33:11.
- **What kind of opportunities has God given you in your neighborhood, school, community, and beyond to make God's name great? What steps will you take this week to do that?** Invite kids to share their ideas. Suggest they tell others the good news about what God has done for rebellious people. Kids might choose one or two people to reach out to this week. Pray for God to prepare those people's hearts. Kids may also invite other kids to join them at church. Read Luke 2:10.

TRANSITION TO HOME: Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.