

Life Lesson 6  
*The Tower of Babel*  
Text: Genesis 11:1-9

Introduction

Have you ever wondered why people speak different languages in different countries? If you went to Japan, everyone would speak Japanese, and you probably wouldn't have any idea what they were saying. If you went to Spain or to Mexico, all you would hear is Spanish. Why don't we all use the same words? It all started with a big, bad idea.

The Story

The flood waters of Noah's day went down into the sea and many years passed by. Noah's great-grandchildren and great-great-great grandchildren forgot about serving God. They went their own wicked way just as the people did before the flood.

That's when they came up with the big, bad idea.

"Let's build a tower," they said. "One that will reach all the way up to heaven. That way we won't be scattered."

Maybe they remembered the stories of God's anger and decided they wanted to build a place safe from another flood.

Can you ever get high enough away to escape from God? Of course, not.

Maybe they wanted to build a tower so big because they wanted to be able to find their way back to the other people in case they were separated. They didn't want to go out and settle the whole earth like God told them to. They wanted to be able to look up and see the mountain-high tower on the skyline and find their way back.

Maybe the "tower that reached unto heaven" meant they wanted to use it to worship the sun, moon, and stars.

Whatever the reason, we know it was a bad idea. God did NOT want them to build that tower. He wanted them to spread out, not stay together. He wanted them to stop sinning, and to do right. God is more powerful than any person or group of people. They thought they could outsmart God. They were wrong!

In those days all the people spoke the same language. They could work together and build things because they could understand each other. So, God stopped their big bad idea by doing something no one thought of before. He mixed up their language.

Suddenly, they couldn't understand each other. A person might try to say, "Help me, please," and it came out "Ayudame por favor." The others didn't understand what he meant, so they didn't help him.

The big bad idea came to a stop as the people quit building the giant tower.

A group of people who spoke the same language found each other. They figured out that it was no use trying to live with people who didn't understand them. They packed up their belongings and went away together. Other groups of people did the same thing. They ended up doing exactly what God wanted them to do. They scattered out through the whole earth instead of staying in one place.

They called the tall tower the Tower of Babel, because that's where the languages were confused.

We know that people in other countries speak different languages. Now you know why! God mixed up the languages long ago so that the people would stop rebelling and do what God told them to do.

### The Life Lesson

Can you outsmart God? No, He knows everything. He knows the thoughts you are

thinking. He is so much smarter than any person that He can easily fix any plan they might have.

Yet, people are silly enough to think they can trick God or get Him to do something they want. The lesson from the story of the Tower of Babel is that God is all-powerful. People can never fool Him or trick Him. He will always do what He says He will do.

## Review Questions

1. What was big, bad idea did the people who lived after the flood have?

*They decided to build a giant tower.*

2. What was the name of the tower the rebellious people built?

*The Tower of Babel.*

3. Did God want them to build the tower?

*No.*

4. How did God stop the people from building the tower?

*He mixed up their languages.*

5. Can anyone outsmart God?

*No, God knows everything.*

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