

## THE ISLAND

<b>LEADER</b>	<b>DATE (am)</b> 22 February 2009
<b>HELPERS</b>	<b>TIME (mins)</b> 40 minutes
<b>PUPPETEER</b>	<b>No. of KIDS (m/f)</b>

- **SERIES / LESSON:** God wants me to obey / The Tower of Babel
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Genesis 11:1-9
- **CONCEPT:** God wants me to obey

### **GOALS:**

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that God wants us to love and obey Him.
- To challenge kids to learn to love and listen to God by reading God's commands in the Bible and by praying to Him.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

### **MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with a hammer inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Brick
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Keyboard / Guitar and someone to play / teach a simple song in a foreign language
- ✓ Foreign language song lyrics on screen
- ✓ Name tag box

<p><b>A. Worship through Music (with puppets)</b> <b>5 minutes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing.</li> <li>2. Sing a song together (<i>Jesus in My Life</i>).</li> <li>3. Open in prayer.</li> <li>4. Kids should remain standing for the recap.</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b>          DVD player / projector          Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</p>
<p><b>B. Message</b> <b>15 minutes</b></p> <p><b>1. Recap</b>          Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the hammer you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain the significance of the hammer and who may have used it. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap last week's story of Noah and the Great Flood. Elicit God's rainbow promise from the kids – that God will never again destroy the earth with a flood, and that He makes a way for us to be saved through Jesus if we obey and follow Him.</p> <p>If you have time, you could also recap last week's Bible verse, or refer to it if you displayed it in your room: <i>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105</i></p> <p>Finish by eliciting the concept: God wants me to obey.</p> <p><b>2. Set the scene</b>  <i>Kids should still be standing. Speak to them in a foreign language, or invite someone who knows another language to speak to the kids. You could say something based on the following:</i></p> <p><i>Ok, kids – welcome to The Island! Now listen carefully. Today I want to speak to you in _____ (e.g. French, Spanish). Girls, go and get a mat and sit down. Boys, get a mat. And now, I want to tell you a story, ok? Do you understand what I'm saying? Sarah, do you understand? Yes or no? Philip, do you understand? Yes or no? Jenny, do you understand? Yes or no?</i></p> <p><i>Kids should be sitting by now. Initiate some discussion:</i> Do you know what language I was speaking? Did you understand everything I said to you? If so, how did you work it out? How does that language sound? Is it very different from our language? Do any of you know another language? Have you ever visited another country where the people speak a different language to you? How easy is it to talk to someone when you both speak different languages?</p> <p>Did you know that a long, long time ago, back in the beginning when God created the earth, there was only one language? Remember the story of Noah and the flood we heard last week? When Noah and his family and all those animals came out of the ark, God told them to multiply in number and fill the earth. And that's what they did. Noah's sons and daughters had children, <i>their</i> children had children, <i>their</i> children had children, and so on, until there were thousands of people living on the earth.</p> <p><b>3. Tell the story</b>          As the number of people grew, so they had to move to new places to find enough space to live and build houses and towns. Some of these</p>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b>  <i>Treasure chest / hammer</i></p>

people moved to the east and found a great flat place to live between the two great rivers – the Tigris and the Euphrates. This land was called Babylonia.

At that time, the whole world had one language. Everyone could understand each other when they spoke because they had all come from the same family – Noah's family.

One day, the men of Babylonia were discussing the best way to build their houses. Instead of using stone, they started making bricks from mud and sand, and using bitumen or black, sticky tar to stick the bricks together. *Show kids a brick.* This was working so well that the men soon had another idea. They thought to themselves, 'We could build ourselves a whole city with these bricks. In fact, why don't we build a city, with the highest tower the world has ever seen, a tower that reaches right up to the heavens. When people see our tower, we will become famous, like superstar celebrities! People all over the world will be talking about our city and its high tower!'

So the men of Babylonia set to work on their plans for the world's highest tower. They were going to need LOADS of bricks. Some men had the job of making bricks, while others took the dry bricks and cemented them together with the sticky tar. It was beginning to take shape. Even though this was really hard work, the people were so excited about becoming famous that they put all their effort and energy into building the tower.

There was just one problem. A problem that the people didn't even realise was there. The problem was that they had forgotten about God. This tower they were building was a wonderful achievement. The planning was excellent, the building work was super, but the Babylonians were building this tower for themselves, not for God. They wanted to become famous themselves, they had no thought of God. They wanted people around the world to come and see how great they were, but they hadn't even thought about worshipping and praising God together.

God was watching all of this going on from heaven. He was sad, disappointed and angry when He came down and saw the city and the tower that the men were building. Remember, God knows people's hearts, and He could see that the Babylonians' hearts were full of pride and thoughts of how to make *themselves* happy rather than making God happy. God could see that if He didn't do something, things would go from bad to worse. People would turn away from Him completely and only want to do bad and sinful things instead of depending on Him and living by His Word.

When I read this story, I thought that God was going to knock down the tower, but He didn't. He had a different plan. God decided to confuse the people by making them speak different languages! Some people spoke Greek, some spoke Spanish, some spoke Chinese, some spoke Arabic, some spoke Hebrew, some spoke German ... and many other people spoke many different languages. When all the people started talking together in all their different languages, it just sounded like nonsense! Like a terrible confusion of noises! Like people were babbling to each other! That's why we call it the Tower of Babel – because that was where God confused the language of

*Brick*



<p>the whole world.</p> <p>Can you imagine that? One day everyone was speaking the same language, and in just a moment, there were many different languages and complete confusion! Just imagine if that happened today on The Island! Imagine if each one of us were given a different language and couldn't understand each other!</p> <p>And what happened? Well, the people couldn't communicate! They couldn't understand each other! And that meant that they couldn't work together to finish building the tower. It was too difficult. So all the little groups of people who spoke the same language moved away to start their own towns in different places of the world, and eventually those places became countries – where the people spoke the same language in each country. That's why we have so many different countries and languages in the world today.</p> <p><b>4. Explain</b></p> <p>The people of Babylonia had forgotten about God and tried to make themselves better than the people around them. God taught the people an important lesson. God taught them that no one is more important than anybody else, and that the only way they could get to heaven was by being sorry for their sin, asking God to forgive them, and living for Him each day of their lives.</p> <p>That lesson is still important for us today. We have to remember that we are not more important than anyone else, and so we should be kind and helpful to people. We need to be careful that we don't show off and try to be better than others because we are proud. We see from this story that God doesn't like a proud heart.</p> <p>We also see from this story that the things we do don't get us to heaven. The Babylonians were building a tower, but maybe you are trying to do lots of good things so that you get to heaven. The Bible tells us that it's great to be kind and help each other by doing good things, but that's not enough. The only way we are sure of getting to heaven is by saying sorry for our sin, by asking God to forgive us, by believing that Jesus died for us and came back to life so that we would have a way to get to heaven, and by living for Jesus every day.</p> <p>Reading those stories in the Bible is a great way for us to learn how to live in a way that pleases God. Another way we can learn about Him is by talking to Him; spending time in prayer.</p>	
<p><b>C. Prayer Net</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens.</li> <li>2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.</li> <li>3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations.</li> <li>4. Explain that when we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, like our world, we need to tell God about those things.</li> <li>5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special</li> </ol>	<p><b>10 minutes</b></p> <p><b>You'll need ...</b>  <i>Net (with last week's prayer cards)</i>  <i>Small cards / postcards</i>  <i>A pen</i></p>

<p>prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.</p> <p>6. Encourage kids to say sorry for any time when they have been proud or behaved as if they were better than someone else. Encourage kids to ask God to help them be kind and help each other, even though it's sometimes difficult.</p> <p>7. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net.</p> <p>8. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group.</p>	
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D. Conclusion (with puppets)	10 minutes	You'll need ...
<p>1. Sing a closing song. <i>(If possible, teach – or have someone else teach – kids a Christian song in a foreign language. Choose a well-known children's chorus that they know in their own language so that they are only learning the lyrics, not the melody. Show the lyrics on screen. Play – or have someone play – the song on a keyboard or guitar. Sing in English first and then try the translation.)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">E.g.      <b>God is so good</b>  God is so good  God is so good  He's so good to me</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bóg dobry jest  Bóg dobry jest  Bóg dobry jest  Dobry dla mnie jest</p> <p>2. Put the brick into the treasure chest to be taken out next week.</p> <p>3. Close in prayer. Challenge kids to remember that we are no better than anyone else, and to do something kind every day to show God's love to the people around them. Challenge them to remember the song you taught them!</p> <p>4. Remind kids to come back this evening. Ask kids to put their mats away and put their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>		<p>Song lyrics on screen</p> <p>Keyboard / guitar  Sheet music / guitar chords</p> <p>Treasure chest  Brick</p> <p>Name tag box</p>

## THE ISLAND cont'd

<b>LEADER</b>	<b>DATE (pm)</b> 22 February 2009
<b>HELPERS</b>	<b>TIME (mins)</b> 40 minutes
<b>PUPPETEER</b>	<b>No. of KIDS (m/f)</b>

### GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story and concept by making a memory verse tower of Babel picture and completing a nationality quiz.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / laptop / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory verse task:     Slide (1 John 5:3)  
                                     Blank slide  
                                     2 large sheets of paper / blu tack  
                                     2 pens / markers
- ✓ Activity:                   Tables  
                                 Pre-made tower picture (see Activity section below for instructions and photos)  
                                 A4 paper (one sheet for each child)  
                                 Cut-out printed paper bricks (sets of 5 small brick-shaped pieces of paper – one set for each child – printed with sections of the verse: *Loving God means / obeying his commands. / And God's commands / are not too hard for us. / 1 John 5:3* ) (Template included in materials)  
                                 Glue  
                                 Colouring pens / pencils
- ✓ Copies of worksheet quiz on flags and languages (one per child)  
                                 (Worksheet included in materials)
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box



<p><b>E. Worship through Music (with puppets)</b> <b>10 minutes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing.</li> <li>2. Sing 2 songs together. (<i>Jesus in My Life / I Love You</i>)</li> <li>3. Open in prayer.</li> <li>4. Ask kids to get a mat and sit down.</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b>  DVD player / projector  Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</p>
<p><b>F. Memory Verse (with puppets)</b> <b>10 minutes</b></p> <p><i>"Loving God means obeying his commands. And God's commands are not too hard for us." 1 John 5:3 (New Century Version)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask a few questions to recap this morning's story: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After the Great Flood, the people on the earth grew in number. Some people moved east to find space to live. They decided to stay in a flat place between two great rivers (the Tigris and the Euphrates). What was this place called? <i>Babylonia</i></li> <li>- The men building the houses for their families decided to stop using stone. What did they use instead? <i>They made bricks and cemented them together using bitumen or tar</i></li> <li>- The people came up with a new idea. What project did they start to work on and why? <i>They decided to build a tower that would reach up to heaven; they wanted to be famous and powerful</i></li> <li>- God wasn't happy when He saw the tower. The people weren't building the tower to worship God, instead they were proud and wanted the fame and glory for themselves. What did God do? <i>He confused their language so that they couldn't understand each other – they stopped working on the tower and each language group moved to a new place in the world</i></li> <li>- What did the tower become known as? <i>The Tower of Babel</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <i>Explain:</i> The people of Babylonia had forgotten about God and tried to make themselves better than the people around them. God taught the people an important lesson – that no one is more important than anyone else, and that the only way they could get to heaven was by being sorry for their sin, asking God to forgive them, and living for Him each day of their lives. That lesson is still important for us today. We have to remember that we are not more important than other people we see around us, and so we should always try to be kind and helpful. We need to be careful that we don't show off and try to be better than others. This story tells us that God doesn't like a proud heart.</li> <li>3. <i>Explain:</i> Every week on The Island we spend time talking to God, telling Him about problems we need help with, and saying thanks for what He has done for us. That's a great way to get to know God. When you love someone, you spend time with them, and God loves it when we spend time with Him, singing and praying. God also tells us that to love Him means to obey His commands. We have to learn to do what God tells us – and we find out how to do that by spending time reading about Him and how He helped His people in the Bible, God's Word. That's exactly what our memory verse tells us today. <i>Show verse on screen and read it aloud:</i> Loving God means obeying his commands. And God's commands are not too hard for us. 1 John 5:3</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p><i>Memory verse slide (1 John 5:3)</i></p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have kids repeat the verse a few times as a group, and individually, until you feel they know it.</li> <li>Tell kids to make sure they take one last look at the verse on the screen because you're going to take it away. <i>Change to a blank slide on screen.</i></li> <li>Divide kids into two groups. Take them into a larger room with more space for them to run.</li> <li>Line up the two groups at opposite sides of the room, not exactly facing each other, but a distance apart. You should already have stuck a large sheet of paper to each of the two walls facing each line of kids. Have an adult helper stand by each sheet of paper to help kids spell their words.</li> <li><i>Explain:</i> I'm going to give the first person in each team a pen. When I say 'Go!' you must run across the room to the sheet of paper on the wall and write the first word of the verse on it. Then you must run back, hand the pen to the next person in the line, and go to the back of the line. The next person should run to the sheet of paper and write the second word of the verse, run back and pass the pen to the next person who will write the third word, and so on. When you have finished writing the whole verse, your team should sit down.</li> <li>Give a pen to the first child in each team. Shout 'Go!' and start the race.</li> <li>When both teams have finished, check their work. Correct any mistakes and congratulate the winning team.</li> <li>Finish by having both teams say the verse together. Take the kids back to your room and ask them to put their mats away.</li> </ol> <p><b>Idea:</b> After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it in later sessions of this series.</p>	<p><i>Blank slide</i></p> <p><i>2 large sheets of paper</i> <i>Blu-tack</i></p> <p><i>2 pens / markers</i></p>
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<b>G. Activity</b>	<b>12 minutes</b>	<b>You'll need ...</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up tables as a workspace and ask kids to find a space around the tables.</li> <li><i>Explain:</i> The people of Babylonia weren't sinning by building the tower. They sinned when they decided to build the tower so that they would become more important than other people in the world. They had forgotten about God, and that's why God was disappointed and angry with them. God made us to love Him, and, like our memory verse says, we love Him by obeying Him.</li> <li><i>Explain:</i> Today, we're going to build our own towers to remind us of how God confused the language of the world at Babel, and to remind us to read our Bibles and pray so that we find out how we can love and obey God. Here is the tower I made. <i>Show kids a pre-made tower picture in demonstration of what they're going to make.</i></li> <li>Give each child a sheet of A4 paper.</li> <li>Give each child five cut-out paper bricks, each one printed with sections of the memory verse.</li> <li>Tell kids that they should move the bricks into the correct order on their page, starting at the top and working down to the Bible reference at the bottom. Check that all kids have their bricks in the right order. Help kids to stick the bricks onto their pages with</li> </ol>		<p><i>Tables</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made tower picture</i></p> <p><i>A4 paper</i> <i>Cut-out printed paper bricks</i></p> <p><i>Glue</i></p>



<p>glue.</p> <p>7. Encourage kids to add some colour to their pictures so they look pretty when they take them home.</p>	<p>Colouring pens / pencils</p>
<p><b>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 8 minutes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If you have time, help kids complete a worksheet quiz on flags and languages. If you are out of time, kids can take it home.</li> <li>2. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes.</li> <li>3. Sing a song in closing. (<i>Jesus in my life</i>)</li> <li>4. Close in prayer.</li> <li>5. Remind kids to come back next week! Make sure kids leave their name tags in the box before they leave.</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p>Copies of worksheet quiz</p> <p>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</p> <p>DVD player / projector</p> <p>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</p> <p>Name tag box</p>

