

## The Adventures of Lily & Noah

*In the Beginning was Genesis – the Alpha – The Creation of the World*

School's out for summer, and Street Reach Summer is about to begin. We last saw Lily and Noah at Spring Street Reach, having a grand time. They were "newbies" in the neighborhood then, but now, they knew how it all worked and were ready! It's Sunday afternoon. Mama and Grannie had taken the kids to Walmart for new sneakers (kids grow fast, you know!). Returning home, Lily went to her room, arranged her clothes, and got ready for Monday. Meanwhile, Noah, less interested in preparing, tossed his shoes onto his bed and headed back outside to play with cousins Aria and Ezra. As Lily finished up in her room, she made her way to the kitchen to see what was going on. Looking forward to Street Reach, Lily was happy to have made many new friends since moving to Memphis.

Later that evening, everyone sat at the picnic table out back and enjoyed their meal together. After dessert, Lily and Noah sat together and thought about Street Reach. "I wonder what the first week will be about." "Me too." They would find out soon enough.

The next morning, Monday dawns with lots of sunshine and is very warm. The kids got dressed and headed to the kitchen table for breakfast. Mama and Daddy were just leaving for work, reminding the kids to behave today. After breakfast, they went out to the porch to wait for the new church team. Soon, the church people came down the street. One of them stopped to talk with Papa, then Lily rolled down her ramp, followed by Noah, and they joined the new church group heading to their club site. The kids all knew the drill. They gathered in their story circle, waiting for the leader.

where they came from. "This week, our goal will be to understand the beginning." She glanced around. "Does everyone here know about the book of Genesis in the Bible?" Most of the kids nodded. "Well, we will just start at the beginning. What do you think that would be?" (allow for children's response here)

Our story for today's club time goes something like this...

In the beginning, there was no earth or sky or sea or animals. And then God spoke in the darkness: "Let there be light!" And right away, there was light, scattering the darkness and showing the infinite space. "That's good!" said God. "From now on, when it's dark it will be 'night,' and when it's light, it will be 'day'." The evening came and the night passed, and then the light returned. That was the first day.

On the second day, God made the earth and hung a blue sky over it. He admired it. "That's good!" said God, and the second day was done. The next morning, God looked around and thought, "The earth needs to be a bit more organized." So, He put all the water in one place and all the dry land in another. That's how we got oceans, lakes, and rivers. When He had finished that, God made plants to cover the land. Dandelions and daffodils appeared. All sorts of trees and grasses began to grow. Can you imagine God giving names to all the plants in the world? "It's looking great," said God. That was the end of the third day.

On the fourth day, God looked around and thought, "The daylight still needs a bit more work. The night is just too dark." So, He made the sun to light the sky during the day. He made the moon and stars to add a bit of sparkle to the night. He hung them in the sky and stepped back to look at his work. "This is coming along very well," said God.

The next day, God turned his attention to the water he had collected in the oceans. "I want these waters teeming with life!" As soon as He said it, it was so. In no time, there were millions of small fish darting through the

shallow water. Huge fish swam in the ocean. God made birds, too. He sent them soaring through the air. "Ahh, that IS good," said God. Dusk fell over the water, and the sky grew dark. That was the end of the fifth day. On the sixth day, God added creatures to the land. He made lions, tigers, and bears. He made rabbits, sheep, and cows. He added everything from ants to zebras to the land. Then, of course, He had to name all of those creatures too! But he still felt something was missing. So, God added mankind to enjoy and take care of all He had created. God looked around and was happy with all He had made.

After six days, the whole universe was completed. On the seventh day, God had a nice, long rest and enjoyed looking at all He had made.

The story leader looked around. "Can you imagine creating everything you see? Is there a creature you'd make that's different from these?" Noah had a very creative imagination and thought about his perfect creature! Lily seemed content with the creatures God had already made.

They all went about their rotations. They had a snack provided. Then they packed up and started home. Lily was happy as she very much liked this group. They were young and fun to be around. Once home, Grannie and Papa were sitting on the porch, waving at the group. The church leader gave them a thumbs-up. Lily rolled up her ramp with Noah helping to push her. Noah spent the afternoon helping Papa pick up around the yard, while Lily helped Grannie snap beans for supper that night.

### **Group Discussion Questions:**

How many days did it take God to create the world?

On what day did God create man?

What was the first thing God created?

### **Bible Verse:**

**"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1**

**Word of the Day: Creation**

The act of bringing the world into ordered existence

## The Adventures of Lily & Noah

*In the Beginning was Genesis – the Alpha – Sin Slithered In*

Monday at Street Reach was lots of fun. After the club, Lily and Grannie finished snapping the beans and went to the kitchen to get them cooking. Noah stayed outside with Papa. Lily liked watching and helping Grannie in the kitchen. By the time supper was ready, Mama and Daddy were home from work. Lily and Noah set the table, and they all sat down for the evening meal. Papa said the blessing. During supper, Daddy talked about a family plan for Saturday. "How about we all go to a baseball game?" he asked. Noah and Lily were so excited! "Can we? Really?" they both said. Daddy replied, "I think if you two have a good week and behave, that would be a fun way to spend Saturday!" The Memphis Redbirds play at AutoZone Park, and this Saturday, they will be playing Louisville at 5:30. Daddy continued, "We can do our Saturday chores and drive over to the game – sound good to you kids?"

"Yes, sir!" Lily and Noah chorused. So that was the plan. The whole family would go to the game as long as the kids had a thumbs-up week!

After clearing the table, Mama gave the kids about an hour to play in the backyard before bath time. That hour went by fast! Noah tried to convince Mama for more time, but she didn't budge. As the evening wound down, the kids went inside, had their baths, and were soon in bed. Tomorrow would bring another fun day!

Tuesday morning arrived warm and sunny—another great day for Street Reach. The kids dressed and found Grannie in the kitchen making breakfast. After, they waited on the front porch for the church people to arrive. Soon, they heard them approaching. Noah and Lily said goodbye

to Grannie and joined the group. It wasn't far to their site, and, upon arrival, everyone formed a circle for story time.

As the group settled in, the leader explained the day's topic. "Well, yesterday God created the world and the animals. Today, God will create people!" she said. "But there will be a few little problems. Let's get right into it and find out what happens." The children leaned forward, ready for a new story to begin.

And today, as everyone listened intently, the story began like this...

So, God took some clay from the ground and made the shape of a man. Then he breathed gently into the shape. The man's eyes opened, and he began to live. God called him Adam. The Lord made a beautiful garden for him to live in. The garden, called Eden, was full of many wonderful things. Beautiful flowers grew everywhere. Birds sang in the trees. Streams flowed through the valley, and animals roamed across the fields. God had made the man in His image to keep Him company and look after the world.

God brought all the animals to Adam, one by one, to give them names. "Elephant", he would say, or "Tiger", or "Porcupine". But God felt sorry for Adam. "None of these animals is really like him," thought God. "He needs someone to share his life. Someone who cares for him and who he can care for."

That night, God took a rib from Adam's side and made a woman. When Adam awoke the following morning, he found a wife, Eve, lying asleep beside him. Adam was so happy. He took her hand, and she woke up. She looked up at him and smiled.

God told the man and woman that it was their job to take care of their new home. God blessed them, saying, "All this is for you. Help yourself to anything you like. But never touch the tree in the middle of the Garden.

That tree gives knowledge of good and evil. The day you eat its fruit, you will die." God did not mean that Adam and Eve would drop dead the moment they ate the fruit from the tree. He meant that in time they would die without His Spirit dwelling in them. (allow for questions or further explanations) One day, Adam and Eve were gathering berries for dinner when she heard a silky voice behind her.

"Has God told you that you can eat the fruit from all the trees?" the voice asked softly. Eve turned around to see a snake talking to her. "God has told us we can eat all the fruit except for what grows on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," Eve told the serpent. "Oh, come now, that's silly! I hardly think such a lovely fruit would do you any harm," the serpent lied. "God knows that if you eat from The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you'll become just like God and will be able to decide for yourself what is right and what is wrong." The woman looked at the fruit and thought it looked tasty. She thought about how wonderful it would be to be as wise and powerful as God. She believed the serpent's lie and ate the fruit and gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he took a bite as well.

She felt a strange feeling in the pit of her stomach. She fidgeted, wondering what was wrong with her. Suddenly, she realized that she was feeling guilty – she had disobeyed God and knew she'd done something wrong.

As soon as they ate the fruit, a change came over Adam and Eve. They became unhappy and fearful of God. Adam and Eve heard God calling them. Without thinking, they dived into the bushes, but God knew where they were. He sees all and knows all! When God asked them if they had eaten from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that He had told them not to touch, they blamed each other for their sins. God was sad that Adam and Eve had disobeyed them. He told them that they had to leave the Garden of Eden, "From now on, you'll have to scratch a living from the

soil. You'll need to make clothes and grow food. Nothing will come easily – not even childbirth. And one day, you will die.”

Well, Lily was thinking that making the animals went a lot better than making the people. She was not at all happy with Eve's behavior! They finished their rotations and had a snack. Soon it was time to head home. Lily and Noah certainly had a lot to talk about tonight at supper! Once they got home, Noah went with Papa to the hardware store while Lily went into the house to help Grannie with supper. Grannie always had a little snack for Lily while they were working.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

Why do you think Eve ate the fruit?

Do you think you would have eaten the fruit if you were there?

What was the one thing God requested of Adam and Eve?

Who do you think the serpent represented?

### **Bible Verse:**

**“I will seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands.” Psalm 119:10**

## The Adventures of Lily & Noah

*In the Beginning was Genesis – the Alpha – Noah’s Ark*

By the time Noah and Papa got home, Mama and Daddy were also home from work. Daddy helped the boys get the bags of mulch out of Papa’s truck, then came inside to wash up for supper. Noah was sporting a new Grizzlies baseball cap (which Mama had to remind him to take off at home). Lily had already set the table, so Grannie filled glasses with sweet tea, and they sat down for a Tuesday night supper of hamburgers and French fries. As usual, Papa said the blessing.

While Noah drowned his French fries with ketchup, he started telling the story of how the Serpent convinced Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. “I wish people could mind as well as animals!” said Noah. Lily agreed. “Speaking of people minding,” said Daddy, “did you kids mind the church people today?” Noah and Lily assured Daddy they had a thumbs-up day! After supper, the kids ran out back for some playtime before it got dark. Cousins Aria and Ezra came over to play, too.

Once it got dark, though, everyone had to go in for bath time. Lily was ready for bed first and rolled into the kitchen for a snack. Grannie always had a tin of cookies and a glass of milk for the kids. Soon, Noah joined Lily for a snack. Then the kids headed for bed, thinking about the fun they would have tomorrow.

Wednesday is another sunny, warm day. Noah and Lily had a bowl of cereal today before hopping out to the front porch to watch for the church people. Soon they could hear them coming down the street. They said bye to Grannie and joined their new friends. They were asking one of the

church people what the story would be today. The church person just smiled and said, "Well, there's lots of water!"

They arrived and were soon sitting in the story circle. The story leader stood up and started talking. "Today, we are going to find out where rainbows come from!" she said. "So, let's dive into our story!"

And today's story goes something like this...

The story of Noah is amazing! This story also comes from the Book of Genesis. It includes a family, all the animals of the earth, a huge boat, a flood, and why we have rainbows. The hero of our story is a dude named Noah. And when God called him to action, he was an old, old dude! He was nearly 600 years old! (Did you know people lived many years in the early bible times?)

Well, one day, as God was thinking about the people on earth, His heart became very sad. He could see that everyone had become very bad, so bad that they had stopped thinking of anything good. God was so sad and hurt that he wanted to get rid of every person and all the creatures that He had made. He wanted all the evil to stop. I guess you could say, He was going to just start all over!

The thing about God is that He gets very angry at our sin (Do you know what Sin is?) and all the bad stuff in the world, but we also know that God still loves us. Remember this whole "sin" thing started in our story yesterday when that serpent slithered into the Garden of Eden and got to Eve. That's why He remembered Noah. Noah was the only one who was righteous (which means he did things right). He was a good guy who walked with God.

So, God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all the people because the earth is full of fighting because of them. I am going to destroy them and the earth." God then gave Noah instructions for building the boat. He told him what kind of wood and how big to make it. He also told

him to put a door in the side of the ark (that's what they called the boat) and to make it with three floors. The ark was humongous! More on that later.

The Bible says that next God told Noah that He would make a covenant with him. A covenant is an agreement or promise. He would save Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives. They would be safe in the ark because God was going to flood the whole earth, and everything else would die. There's one big piece still missing – the animals! Two of all living creatures, male and female (boy and girl of each). Plus, two of every kind of bird and every creature that moves along the ground (yes, even the snakes!) Then, there was food for each of them for as long as they were on the boat.

Yikes! That's a lot of animals and a lot of Purina animal chow! (Do you think Kroger sells Moose Chow or Giraffe Chow?) Think of what a noisy and stinky place to be, but they would all be safe.

It's hard to describe how big the ark actually was, but if you think of some of the biggest animals you know (elephant, moose, buffalo, giraffe, rhino, gorilla) and make sure you have 2 of each of those plus all the other little animals that couldn't be stepped on...well, they needed a lot of room! Some people think it took over 100 years to build the ark, and the Bible says that Noah was 600 years old when the flood waters came. Now, keep in mind that Noah was building a big ark because God told him to. Noah was teased and bullied by a lot of the evil people. He stood up to them because he was loyal to God. That's how he became our hero today.

When the ark was done, God gave Noah 7 days' warning before the flood to get all the animals and food on board and told him that He would send rain for 40 days and 40 nights. When everyone was in the ark, God shut the door.

Then the rain started. The floods kept coming for 40 whole days! The ark floated on the water, and all the high mountains were completely covered with water. Every living thing died on the earth that wasn't in the ark. So, the rain came for 40 days and nights, but when it stopped, Noah and the animals couldn't just leave the ark. There was too much water and no land for them to walk on; everything was covered.

God remembered Noah and all that was in the ark, so he sent a wind to help dry the earth. Finally, in the seventh month after the floods had stopped, the ark rested on top of a mountain. A little while after that (40 days), Noah opened a window he had made for the ark and probably let in some fresh air! Ha! He also let out a raven, but it would just fly back and forth to the ark until the water had dried.

Then he sent out a dove, but the dove couldn't find any place to go. After a week, he sent the dove out again, and this time it came back with a live leaf, which meant the waters had gone down. He waited one more week and let the dove out again – this time it didn't return.

When the earth had dried up enough, God told Noah that everyone could get out of the ark. That probably was a very happy day! Maybe a little scary as well. There would be no one but them on the earth, and they would have to start all over, building a house, collecting food...there wasn't a Walmart nearby!

Then Noah built an altar to thank God for keeping them safe. When God saw what Noah had done, he told Noah that he would never again curse the ground, even if the people became very bad. Then he gave them a sign for everyone to see this promise. He put a rainbow in the sky, and that's to remind us of the promise God made to Noah, the animals, and us today!

So, whenever you see a rainbow, say a little prayer and thank God that he loves us and that He keeps His promises.

Lily loves rainbows. She'd heard the story of Noah before, but not the rainbow part. That was new (and interesting!) She was looking forward to seeing a rainbow in the sky real soon.

After finishing their rotations and having a snack, it was soon time for the hike home. Once they were home, Noah started helping Papa spread out the mulch they bought at the store while Lily rolled inside to see what Grannie was doing. She and Grannie went out to the front porch to watch the boys.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

What is an Ark?

What was God's promise in the rainbow?

Do you think Noah was scared?

Why did God cause the flood?

### **Bible Verse:**

**"I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth." Genesis 9:13**

### **Word of the Day: Covenant**

A two-way promise where God promises us certain blessings in return for our keeping our end of the agreement

## The Adventures of Lily & Noah

*In the Beginning was Genesis – the Alpha – Joseph was a Leader*

Once Mama and Daddy got home from work, Lily went in to set the table for supper. Grannie was stirring up some cole slaw to go with supper and had a pan of biscuits in the oven. Daddy went outside to see how the yard work was going. In a while, everyone got washed for supper and sat down. After the blessing, they talked about the day while eating the chicken and rice. Lily related the story about Noah and the rainbow. Mama agreed with Lily that rainbows were so pretty. Noah was thoughtful for a minute, then asked Mama if she named him after the Noah in the Bible. Mama smiled for a minute, then said, "Well, yes, that is where Daddy and I got the name." Noah smiled.

After supper, Aria and Ezra came over, and the kids all settled in the living room to watch their favorite show. Grannie made popcorn for them. The grownups all stepped out to the front porch while the kids watched TV. Grannie came out with another bowl of popcorn for the adults! When the show was over, Daddy walked the cousins home while Lily and Noah got ready for bed. They knew tomorrow was Thursday, and they were close to the weekend adventure at the baseball game. Noah was really excited.

Thursday morning arrived just as clear and warm as the day before. The kids got ready for their day and had some pancakes before going to the front porch to wait for the church people. Grannie came out to wave bye, and the kids joined the group for some fun. Lily loved to ask the church people what the story would be. They never told the whole story, but they did drop hints. They were soon there and in their story circle. The story leader stood up and said, "Today, we'll be talking about a teenager

named Joseph. He came from a big family. We'll have to see how this family drama goes!"

And today's story goes something like this...

This is the story about a young man named Joseph. His father's name is Jacob, and they lived in Canaan, the land from which his grandfather came. This story is also found in the Book of Genesis.

Joseph was seventeen (old enough to drive a car these days), and he had eleven brothers; only one was younger than him. Can you imagine having eleven brothers to play with, or fight with?

Because Joseph was one of the youngest sons, his father spent more time with him, and he became very special to him. So, Jacob had a special robe made for Joseph. (Most people didn't have jackets back then, so this was a very special jacket. It was very beautiful, with every color you could imagine.

All of Joseph's older brothers saw this and became very jealous. The word jealous means that Joseph's brothers didn't like Joseph because they thought his father liked him more, and because he got the special coat. They got so jealous that they couldn't even say a kind word to him. One day, Joseph had a dream, and he went to tell his brothers. He said, "Guess what? Last night I had a strange dream. We were tying up bunches of grain out in the field when suddenly my bunch stood up, while all of yours gathered around and bowed to me." The brothers looked at each other in disgust, but Joseph continued. "Then I had another dream that the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me." "Who do you think you are?" The brothers said. "Do you think that you are better than all of us? Do you think that we would ever bow down to you?" This made the brothers dislike Joseph even more.

When he told his father about his dreams, he said, "Those are strange dreams." But he thought carefully about what Joseph had told him.

A few days later, Joseph's father asked him to check on his brothers. They were in the fields quite a distance away. So, Joseph went to find them. When the brothers saw Joseph in the distance, they made a plan to kill him. But when Reuben, Joseph's oldest brother, heard this, he said, "Let's not kill him, just throw him in a well out here in the field." He said this because he was secretly planning to return and rescue Joseph after the other brothers had left.

So, when Joseph came to them, they took off his beautiful robe, and they threw him into an empty well. A little while later, a group of people came by who wanted to sell some things in Egypt. One of the brothers spoke up, "Why don't we sell him to these people? We never have to see him again, and we don't have to kill him."

The other brothers liked this idea, so they sold him to the people who were going to Egypt.

Unfortunately, Reuben had been working and hadn't seen what happened. When he returned to the well, he noticed that Joseph was gone. He had been sold to an important man named Potiphar, an assistant to the Pharaoh of Egypt.

The rest of the brothers took Joseph's beautiful robe, dipped it in animal blood, and took it back to their father. When the father saw this, he cried, "Some animal has killed my son." And he cried for many days, so much that nobody could comfort him.

Now Joseph had started out as a slave, but the Lord was with Joseph, and He helped him do everything right. So Potiphar made him his chief servant and put him in charge of everything he owned.

The problem arose when Potiphar's wife lied to her husband about Joseph, so Potiphar had Joseph put in jail.

The Lord was still with Joseph in jail, and the warden put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. He never worried because the Lord was with Joseph and helped him do everything right.

After Joseph had been in jail for some time, a cupbearer and baker to Pharaoh had been sent there. One night, each of them had a dream. They told their dreams to Joseph, and he told the cupbearer that he would soon be released from jail. "Please tell Pharaoh about me and ask him to get me out of here," Joseph said.

When the cupbearer was freed, he forgot about what Joseph did. So, Joseph stayed in jail for two more years. Until one day, the Pharaoh had a dream, and nobody could explain it to him. The cupbearer then remembered what Joseph had done for him, and Joseph was brought to Pharaoh.

"Can you understand dreams?" Pharaoh asked. "I can't, but God helps me," Joseph replied. After Pharaoh had told him his dream, Joseph explained, "God is warning you. There will be seven years when nothing will grow, and there won't be any food for anyone."

"What can I do?" Pharaoh asked. "God has shown you what to do. There will be seven years of very good years before the bad years. So good that there will be extra food for everyone. So, you should save a little bit of each year's harvest; that way, you will have enough to get you through the bad years," Joseph said.

Pharaoh believed all that Joseph told him and put him in charge of all the land of Egypt. The Pharaoh had great trust in Joseph. People from all countries came to buy grain from Joseph because the whole world was in need of food. Some of those people were Joseph's brothers. When his brothers came, Joseph recognized them, but they did not know who he was. (It had been over 10 years since they had seen him. The brothers all bowed to him because he was an important person. Just as he dreamed, they would be at the beginning.

After a few meetings with his brothers, he could not keep it in any longer, and Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father alive?" But his brothers couldn't answer him because they were afraid. (Why do you think

they were afraid?) Then Joseph said, "Come here. I am your brother, the one you sold! Do not worry, and do not be angry at yourselves for selling me, because God has put me here to save people from starving."

So, his father, his brothers, and their families came to live in Egypt with Joseph, and they had all the food they needed.

Noah thought those brothers were pretty mean. But he admired how Joseph handled himself. The kids all finished their rotations before having a snack. Then they slowly started home. Noah kept thinking about the baseball game – he was so excited. And he and Lily had been very good all week!

### **Group Discussion Questions**

What is a talent?

Why didn't Joseph's brothers like him?

What talent did Joseph have? (interpret dreams)

Did you know God gives everyone different talents?

### **Bible Verse:**

**"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also, he made him a tunic of many colors."**

**Genesis 37:3**

### **Word of the Day: Interpreter**

Someone who explains (in this story) dreams in a Spiritual format

## The Adventures of Lily & Noah

*In the Beginning was Genesis – the Alpha – The Tower of Babel*

Thursday afternoon, when the kids got home from Bible Club, the weather was looking like rain. There were lots of real dark clouds in the sky. Grannie told them to stay in this afternoon since she was hearing thunder. So, Noah and Papa sat on the front porch and played checkers while Lily was in the kitchen watching Grannie. Aria and Ezra were going to come over in just a bit and would stay for supper.

Lily and Grannie talked about Bible Club and how much Lily was learning about the Bible stories. Lily and her family go to Sunday school and church on most Sundays, but she really likes Bible Club. They were talking today about Joseph and his “coat of many colors”. Lily remarked to Grannie, “Back in those days, it seemed like it was so much harder than now.” Grannie agreed. She said, “Yes, the people then had to rely a lot on their faith in God, even though they didn’t have Sunday School or Bible Club.” Lily considered that and nodded in agreement.

Later that afternoon, Mama and Daddy got home. Noah went next door and got Aria and Ezra for supper. Aria helped Lily set the table, then they all sat down for a yummy supper. Daddy asked Lily and Noah if they were getting thumbs up all week. “Yes, yes!” they both shouted. They both knew that meant just one thing – baseball on Saturday.

After supper, the kids watched some TV until it was time for baths and bed. Daddy took Aria and Ezra home while Lily and Noah got ready for bed.

Friday morning has arrived! Lily and Noah were so ready for Bible Club. They got dressed and had some breakfast, then went out to the front porch to wait for the church people. Soon they arrived. Lily rolled down her ramp with Noah behind her, and soon they joined the group for the last day of week 1. Lily was a little sad about that, but she knew a new church group would arrive on Monday.

Soon they were at their site and in the story circle. The story leader stood up and told the group they were going to talk about a tower to heaven! The leader said, "This tower was no step ladder and has a message about being humble and pride. So, let's get right to it."

And today's story goes something like this...

Today's story is about pride. Pride is when you think you're better than someone else. The problem with this is that God hates pride. When we think we are better than others, we also start to think we don't need God and that we can handle things on our own.

The thing is, we ALWAYS need God. He made us so that we would need Him. He wants us to depend on Him and ask Him for help. If we think we have everything figured out and know it all, we're really going our own way and turning away from God.

Just think about the last time you disobeyed your parents, or you weren't nice to a friend. You put your thoughts and feelings first and didn't care about the other person's feelings. That is pride.

In this story, you'll see how God handles pride and how badly he wants to stop it from happening. It all started with a King named Nimrod. Everything was going great. Everyone in the whole world spoke the same language. Some of the people ended up living in a place called Babylonia. Then King Nimrod decided he wanted to be famous. He wanted everyone to know him and how great he was. He convinced the people that lived in

Babylonia that they, too, could be great if they built a tower that went all the way to heaven.

So, the people went to work making bricks for the Tower of Babel. It was hard work, but the people wanted everyone to know they had built the tower that reached heaven, so they worked even harder. The people also convinced themselves that building the tower would keep them united. Since they already spoke the same language, now they would be building the tower together. Their pride had taken over, and all they were thinking about was that they'd be known all over the world for building the biggest and best tower ever.

God could see what was happening all along, but decided to come down to earth and see the tower that the people were building. God could tell the people's hearts were more focused on themselves and the tower than on him. He was very disappointed and angry with them.

God said, "I see that the people think they can do anything because they all speak the same language. They have already begun to turn away from me, and soon there won't be anything good left; all they'll do is sin. I will mix up their language, so they won't understand each other, they won't be able to work together to sin against me."

After God said this, the people could no longer understand each other. It seemed like they were babbling and making funny noises. All the people suddenly spoke different languages; some French, some Spanish, others Chinese, and many others. They were very confused.

This was the beginning of the languages. Imagine what would've happened if the people hadn't tried to build the tower in the first place, and they focused on God instead. Maybe we would all speak the same language today.

From there, the Lord scattered the people all over the whole earth.

It's interesting because when people started building the Tower of Babel, Babel meant "gateway to God," but after God confused their languages, it came to mean "confusion." Even the word "babble" that we use today is said to come from that day when everyone was in confusion.

So, you can see how much God hates pride. The people could've done amazing things for God when they all spoke the same language, and they could've been unified that way. Instead, they decided to do something silly and build a big tower just so other people would notice them and call them great.

The opposite of pride is humility, or to be humble. The way you can be humble is by realizing that EVERYONE (poor people, people with disabilities, people of different races, etc.) is special. Each of us might be good at some things, but you can be sure that each person is special at something that you're not.

If you want to be humble, remember to listen to your parents and those in authority, be kind to others rather than put them down, and read your Bible and pray. By doing these things, you're not just focusing on yourself. After all, pride just causes a lot of trouble!

Noah really liked this story. He was thinking about how tall this tower would need to be. Being humble was something he had heard his Papa talk about before.

The kids finished their rotations with this church team for the last time. The leader told them, as they got ready to leave, how much they enjoyed this Bible Club group in Memphis this past week and that maybe they would see them next year. They all made the walk back to their houses, where Papa and Grannie were sitting on the front porch. The church leader gave them 2 thumbs up, and Lily rolled up her ramp with Noah helping in the push. Noah was so happy – baseball tomorrow night for sure!!!

Well, Noah and Lily finished week 1 of Bible Club. Look for more adventures this summer in Memphis!

### **Group Discussion Questions**

Why did the people want to build the tower?

Did they get the tower done?

Why didn't they complete the tower?

### **Bible Verse**

**"A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit." Proverbs 29:23**

### **Word of the Day: Pride**

Thinking you're better than others or God, needing all the attention