



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: Exploring the Stories of the Old Testament

Today's story: The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)

Key Verse: "And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.'" Genesis 11:6

Questions to go deeper into the story:

- This story is another example of an *etiology*, a story created to explain why things are the way they are. What part of everyday life was this story attempting to explain?
- Why did the people want to build this grand tower?
- Why did God think this tower was such a bad idea?
- What positive attribute of the people does God's action seek to address? Why?

Activity possibilities:

- Check out the coloring picture on the back of this insert.
- Many great games have to do with building towers with odd shaped pieces to see how high you can build the tower before it falls over. Games like *Jenga* and *Blockhead* are excellent examples of this. See if you can find one of these games and ask your family or friends to play it with you. Tell the people you are playing with this story and see what they think. Then try playing the game without talking. Is this easier or harder? If you can't find one of the games to play, find some paper or plastic cups and try to build a pyramid tower as high as you can. Start with a row of 6 overturned cups, placed close together. Add a row of 5 on top of those, then 4 and so on. How many cups did you add before your tower fell?



Interesting to note in this story is God's awareness of what humans are capable of achieving. Did you know that the quest to build the tallest building in the world is still going on today? Check out this link to the story of a tower currently under construction in Japan:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFaqhmLr2VE>

Is language still a problem even though it's possible to learn other languages easily? Why? Is God's confusion of languages still in play? How might we move beyond it?

If humans really are capable of achieving whatever they put their minds to, what do YOU think should be the focus of our common efforts? What problems should be addressed with our combined ingenuity? Pick one and do some google research to see who is working on this problem right now.

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always available to answer your questions anytime! Call, text, or email her or stop by the Savoy any Thursday afternoon from 2-4pm!!