

**Materials I Need:****Legend:**= Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade= Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**Memory Work:**

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.” Genesis 12:2

**Aim Questions:**

1. What were the two reasons the people gave for building the city and the tower of Babel?
2. How did God scatter them over the whole earth?
3. What was Abram called by God to do? How did he respond?
4. What did God say He would do if Abram obeyed?
5. What are you called by God to do?
6. What blessings will you receive through faith in Jesus?

**Hook:**

**You Can't Take It All! (Discussion).** Ask students what they would take with them if they were told they had to leave their homes and camp out for the next year. After students share, tell them the only way they can travel is by horseback and that they would move four to five times during that year. Ask them if they would change their minds about what they brought. What if they had to feed 100 people, and grocery stores only appeared every 500 miles? How would they do it?




**Languages (Activity).** Divide the students into small groups. Give each group a piece of paper and a pencil. Give the students two minutes to write down as many different languages as they can think of that are spoken in the world today. After two minutes, see which group has the most. Ask the students why we have different languages today. What did God tell Noah's family to do in Genesis 9:1? What were the consequences of not following God's directions?





**Who Says? (Worksheet).** Below are five different ways to say good morning and hello. See if you can guess what each language is. Write the correct letter for each language on the blank. (Answers: Good morning: C. A. D. E. B. Hello: C. A. D. E. B. Bonus Question: What happened that resulted in different languages? **1GEN04.GF1**)



**Build It Higher! (Game).** Play a tower building game such as Jenga, or bring building blocks or boxes, and have a contest to see who can build the highest tower.

 **Understand? (Discussion).** Listen to something in another language - invite someone who can speak a second language or play a song or spoken piece on tape. Imagine being in a place where only this language is spoken. It would be a struggle to understand other people, and they wouldn't understand you either. Wouldn't it be a lot easier if the whole world spoke one language? Think how much better it would be for missionaries with no need to learn another language or translate the Scriptures! After the flood, Noah's family was the only one on earth. Obviously there was a time when everyone spoke the same language. What do you suppose happened?

 **Roll Call (Game).** Tell students to stand when you call their names. After you call all their names, and students are standing, tell them to sit back down when they hear their name again. This time, call out their names (first and last) in piglatin. Some students will recognize their names right away. Repeat the names of students that remain standing until they finally recognize them. Is piglatin really another language? Wouldn't it be great if it were this easy to understand another language? If everyone spoke a different language around you, how would you feel if you were not being understood and you were not able to understand others?

 **Make a Name (Craft/Discussion).** Have students write their names inside the marquee, **1GEN04.GF2.** Decorate. Color, add glitter or sequins, etc. Ask students if they have ever wanted to see their name in lights. Have they ever wanted to be famous? Have they ever wanted to do something great so people everywhere would know who they were? Today's lesson contains two stories. One is about a group of people who tried to make a name for themselves. The other story is about a man who obeyed God and received a promise that God would make his name great.

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### **Book:**

#### **Presentation Ideas -**

 **Tower of Babel (Illustration/Overhead).** Genesis 11:7-9, **1GEN04.GF3.**

 **Abram & Sarai Leave for the Promised Land (Illustration/Overhead).** Genesis 21:4-6, **1GEN04.GF4.**

#### **Bible Adventure -**

How much obedience is enough obedience? Do you ever try to bargain with parents or teachers to see if you can escape obeying absolutely? We give a lot of lip service to obeying God completely, but do we do it in reality? We're going to look at two specific examples today in the book of Genesis of people who tried to skirt the issue of obedience, and where it got them. Hopefully, you'll be able to see into God's heart too, to understand how important it is to Him that we believe what He says, and to understand why His Word has so much to say about this subject.

After the great flood, when God made His covenant with Noah and His family, He told them to "be fruitful and multiply, and fill the whole earth." At first this was just what people did. Noah's family grew and earth's population grew. They began to spread out more and more over the world God had made. Everyone spoke the same language. As they kept going eastward, they encountered a plain between two rivers that they liked very much. They decided to stay there. They soon forgot about God's plan for them to spread out and live in many different places on the earth. They found their own company was enough for them. Their independence from God and their pride grew the longer they stayed. They came up with an idea. "Let's make some bricks," they said to one another. Then, "let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." See any problems here? For one thing, they forgot all about what God might have wanted them to do. They didn't even ask Him what He thought of the idea. For another, they revealed what was in their hearts when they planned this city and tower. They wanted to make a name for themselves by building a monument so tall, it would show how great they were. The whole world would see it and admire them. Not content to let God have first place in their lives, their pride led them to try to replace Him. They might as well have been trying to put out a forest fire by blowing on it! God does not take lightly, attempts to steal His glory. He saw what the people were doing, and put an abrupt stop to it. He saw that they had united in an attempt to try to take His place. God

decided to spoil their plans. He first changed their language, so that people could not talk with one another any more. It's a little tough to get someone to go along with your plan if they can't understand a word you say! To this day, the tower the people tried to build is called the Tower of Babel, and even today, when we say a person is babbling we mean he is making no sense. After this, God scattered the people throughout the earth. They separated and settled in places where people spoke their own languages. God now had the makings of the different nations of the world.

Genesis shows us the record of the family of Noah's son Shem. It goes through many, many generations until we finally learn about Abram. Abram, later called Abraham, is an important figure in the history of the nation of Israel. Abram is a total contrast to the people who wanted to build the Tower of Babel. They wanted to build a great name for themselves. Abram was content to let God build a name for him. Stay tuned and you'll see what I mean.

Abram and his family lived in Ur of the Chaldees. It was here that we learn God first spoke to Abram. He said to him, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to a land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Gen. 12:1-3) Abram's father, Terah, took Abram and his wife Sarai, and his grandson Lot, and began to journey to the land of Canaan. On the way they stopped at a place called Haran, and decided to live there. God had made some wonderful promises to Abram, but He hadn't yet revealed the promised land to him. So after his father died, he, Sarai, and Lot traveled on. They took all their possessions and all the servants of their household. When they arrived in Canaan, God told Abram that He would give to his descendants the land on which they were standing. God wasn't just promising some real estate. He was speaking of the roots of a new nation, a home for them, and a place where God would work His will in the lives of His people. To show his faith in God's promise, Abram built an altar and worshipped Him.

Abram kept journeying south, and there was soon a famine in the land. It was a bad famine, and so Abram went to Egypt to live there, where they could find food. Before they arrived there, Abram took Sarai aside and told her about something that was really worrying him. Sarai was a very pretty woman, and Abram was afraid the Egyptians would want her, and would kill him if they knew she was his wife. So he asked Sarai to tell the Egyptians that she was his sister. In reality, Sarai was Abram's half-sister, but she was also something else--his wife! A little truth mixed with a lie is still a lie.

When they reached Egypt, things happened just the way Abram thought they would. The Egyptians saw how beautiful Sarai was, and so she was taken to Pharaoh's house, to possibly become his wife! Pharaoh treated Abram very well because of Sarai, and gave him gifts of animals and servants. Their plan seemed to be working. However, God was not at all pleased with this. Sarai did not belong in Pharaoh's house! She belonged with Abram. God sent plagues upon Pharaoh's house, until Pharaoh knew that somehow Sarai and Abram were at the middle of it. When he learned Sarai was really Abram's wife, he sent for him. His questions probably made Abram squirm in discomfort. "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me she was your wife? Why did you say she was your sister?" Pharaoh was concerned that he might have taken Sarai as his own wife because of Abram's lie. What a mess that would have been! If Abram had only trusted in God's protection, he wouldn't have felt he needed to lie. Abram and Sarai were sent out of Egypt because of their dishonesty.

Did Abram blow it? Yes, he did. Did that cancel out the promise God had made to him? No, it didn't. God understands that we are human, and sometimes stumble and fall in our attempts to obey Him. Fortunately, God is not looking for us to have a perfect record. He is looking for a heart that wants to obey Him more than anything else. That's the kind of heart Abram had. That's why God gave him the promise. Let's look at that again. God promised to make Abram a great nation and to bless him. He also promised that all the people on earth would be blessed through Abram. What did this mean? If you follow Abram's family tree, you'll find someone very special in it. Can you guess who it is? It's Jesus Christ. God was promising to bless all people of the earth through His Son, the Messiah.

We saw how Abram responded in faith to God's call to leave his own country. It was faith that pleased God. From the beginning of time, men have fallen into the trap of thinking that doing certain things would win God's approval. For years God's people believed that keeping the Law would save them--many still believe that. But the Bible tells us that Abram (Abraham) believed God, and was seen as righteous by God because of it. Even before Jesus came, faith in God's words was what really counted

with Him. Galatians 3 tells us that those who believe are children of Abraham. That means they share in the promise God made to Abram--that we who believe will be blessed because we believe in Jesus Christ. This was God's covenant with Abram, and it's still in effect today.

Abram was called by God, faithfully obeyed and received the promises of God. God called him to leave behind his homeland, his relatives, and his father's house to go to an unseen land. He was called to leave his old life to live a new life directed by God. Abram answered his call. Have you received a call as well? Just like Abram, you have been called by God to trust Him, to turn your back on an old way of life and follow where He leads you. God has called you to turn your back on sin, and turn to His Son, Jesus Christ to save you and give you a new way of life. You have been called to believe God and to obey His word, so that you can receive His promise of heaven and an eternal life with Him. Those who do that will, like Abram, be seen as righteous by a Holy God. Jesus' death, burial and resurrection makes it all possible for us. Be glad! The blessings we have received, and will continue to receive as children of Abraham are more numerous than we could ever count. Give thanks to God today for the blessings and the promise!

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### Look:




**Tower of Babel (Relay Game).** Divide students into teams of three or four. Each team will need a set of alphabet blocks. Inform them that the object of the game is to build a "Tower of Babel" by forming words from the blocks. On "Go," the first student of each team runs to the team's pile of blocks and finds the first letter of the word "Babel." Setting it to one side, the student then runs back to the team, and the next student finds the next letter and places it on top of the first block. The first team to spell the word wins. Use other words which do not have repeating letters such as: tower, Shinar, God, confuse, rainbow, promise, etc.



**To the Four Corners (Activity).** You will need a world map or globe, four empty boxes, and **1GEN04.GF5** cut and separated. Label the boxes "North", "South", "East" and "West", and place accordingly in the room. Locate Babel (or Babylon), which is present day Iraq, on the map or globe. From there, indicate North, South, East and West. Discuss what happened at the Tower of Babel when man chose to exalt himself rather than God. Mix and distribute destination cards among four groups. Using the map or globe, allow each group to work together to distribute their destination cards to the correct "corner" of the earth by placing them in the appropriate boxes. Ask groups if they know what language is now spoken at each destination.



**Pack It Up! (Worksheet).**  Have students circle who or what Abram possibly took with him when the Lord told him to leave home, **1GEN04.GF6**.



**Babel or Blessing (Worksheet).** Re-space the letters to reveal the verse, **1GEN04.GF7**.



**That's True, But... (Q and A).** When Abram said that Sarai was his sister, he was telling the truth, but not the whole truth. He withheld the important fact that they were married in order to deceive the Egyptians. This is a true/false test with a twist. Some statements are completely true, but some, although partly true, aren't completely true. Have students answer "T" for True, and "?" for half-true. Younger students can write their answers as questions are read aloud. (Answers: 1. T; 2. ?; 3. ?; 4. T; 5. ?; 6. T; 7. T; 8. ?; 9. ?; 10. ?; 11. ?; 12. ?), **1GEN04.GF8**.



**Can You Translate? (Worksheet).** What language is this? Have students "translate" the passage by re-writing the letters on the blanks below. Circle the part of the promise that is fulfilled in Jesus. Write the letters found in the circles. Unscramble the letters to find a word that means: "a solemn promise of God to man." (Answer: covenant), **1GEN04.GF9**.



## Took:

- It's Not Easy (Discussion).** Webster defines the word "inconvenient" as something that is not favorable to one's comfort; difficult to do, use or get to; causing trouble or bother; unhandy. Discuss with students how Abram's obedience to God was not very convenient. Leaving home, family and all its comforts really wasn't an easy thing to do. Being obedient doesn't mean God's going to make life easy for you. Encourage students to remember Abram's example of faith in action (obedience) when they're faced with taking the easy way out.
- God's Promises (Discussion).** What did God tell Abram to do? What did God promise Abram? How did Abram respond to God's instructions? Did Abram trust God? How does God want you to live your life? Do you obey God when He says honor your mother and father? Do you submit to authorities above you, such as teachers? What does God promise those who have surrendered their lives to Him? Have students look up John 3:16 and Romans 8:28, 38 and 39.
- Complete Obedience (Discussion).** Read the following verses, and discuss what God asked each person to do. Read the next verse, and discuss what was actually done. What happened as a result of not fully obeying God?
  - Noah – Genesis 9:1, Genesis 11:4, Genesis 11:7
  - Abram – Genesis 12:1, Genesis 12:4, Genesis, 12:10Do you always obey God? God knows we are not perfect people. That is why He sent His Son to die on the cross for us. He is a forgiving God and is there to help us. What do we need to do when we know we have disobeyed God? Pray this week that God will give you the strength to do His will.
- A Great Name (Cut and Paste).** The people of the earth built a city and a tower to "make their name great." Have students cut out the pieces of the tower. Have them "build" the tower and glue it in place to find out what we **should** do, **1GEN04.GF10**.
- Bless You! (Worksheet).** Have students fill in the blanks with the correct form of the word "bless." Words can be used more than once, **1GEN04.GF11**.
- Father Says (Activity).** 🦊 Play "Simon Says" with the following commands:
  1. Father says, "Eat your cracker and whistle."
  2. Father says, "Rub your stomach, and pat your head."
  3. Father says, "Rub your head, and pat your stomach."
  4. Father says, "Say 'Jesus is Lord' backwards."**DEBRIEF:** Just as the game's instructions were difficult, God's directions may not always seem easy. To whom should we look for strength to do difficult things? As with Abram, obedience is not always easy. By the help of the Holy Spirit, given to all who receive God's free gift of salvation, we can fully obey His directions for our lives.
- ABC Button Banner (Craft).** Have students make a button banner on which to pin their ABC Buttons for the book of Genesis. A take-home kit will be provided for each child when he or she earns the first button. Kits include banner felt, dowel, cording and instructions with suggestions for individual decoration. These are available upon request.
- ABC Buttons (Memory Work).** Give students the Genesis ABC stats on **1GEN01.GF11** in order to earn their buttons. Buttons are awarded to those successfully memorizing the significant action, Bible verse and character statistics for each lesson throughout the book of Genesis. The ABC's for Genesis 11-12 are:

- A. Promised Land Blessing
- B. Genesis 12:2
- C. Abram

# Who Says?

Below are five different ways to say good morning and hello. See if you can guess what each language is. Write the correct letter for each language on the blank.

## GOOD MORNING

\_\_\_\_. Selamat pagi

A. Hungarian

\_\_\_\_. Jó reggelt

B. French

\_\_\_\_. Aloha kakahiaka

C. Indonesian

\_\_\_\_. god morgen

D. Hawaiian

\_\_\_\_. Bonjour

E. Norwegian

## HELLO!

\_\_\_\_. Ave

A. Hebrew

\_\_\_\_. Sha-lòm

B. French

\_\_\_\_. Aloha!

C. Latin

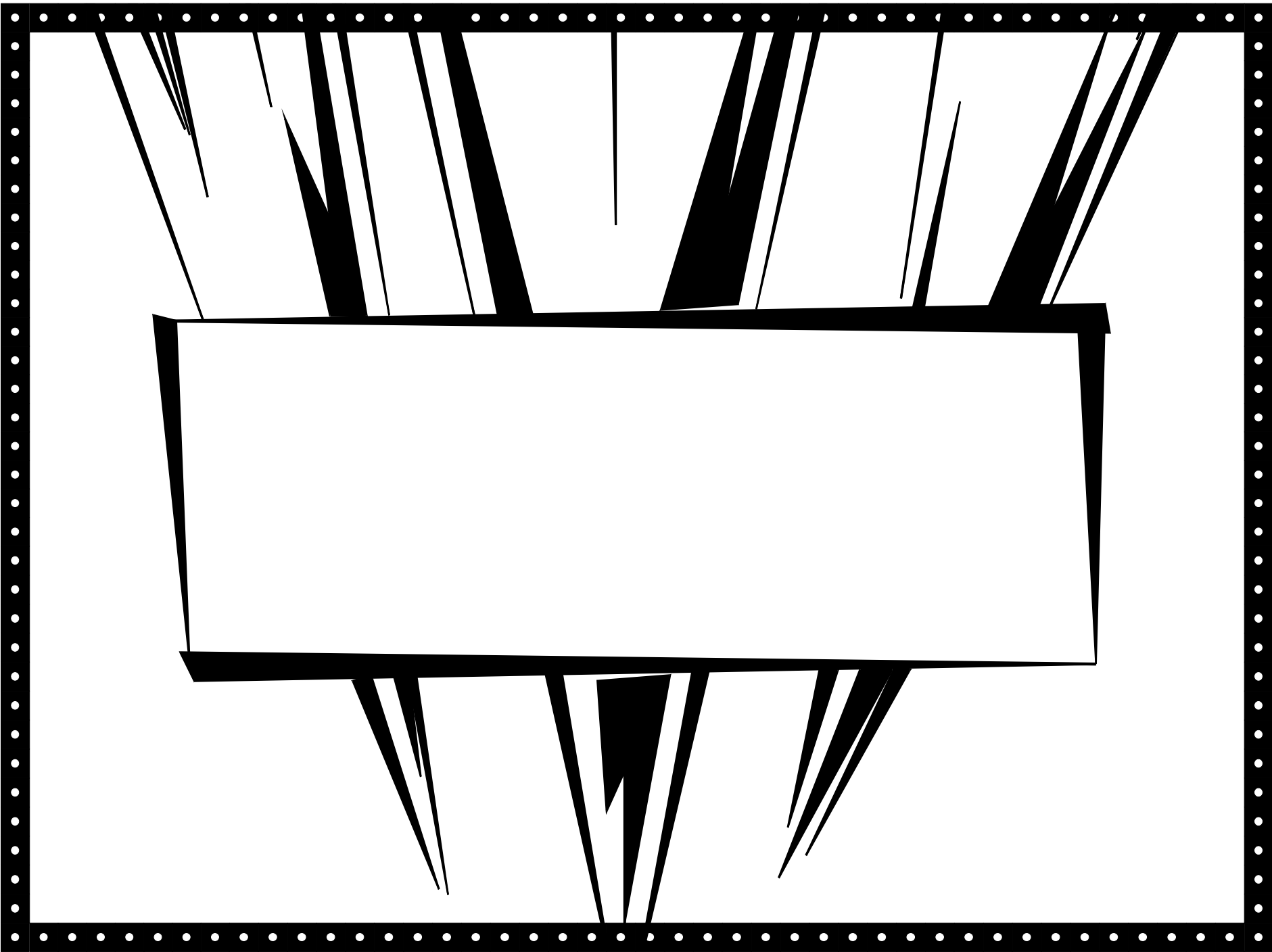
\_\_\_\_. Alo

D. Hawaiian

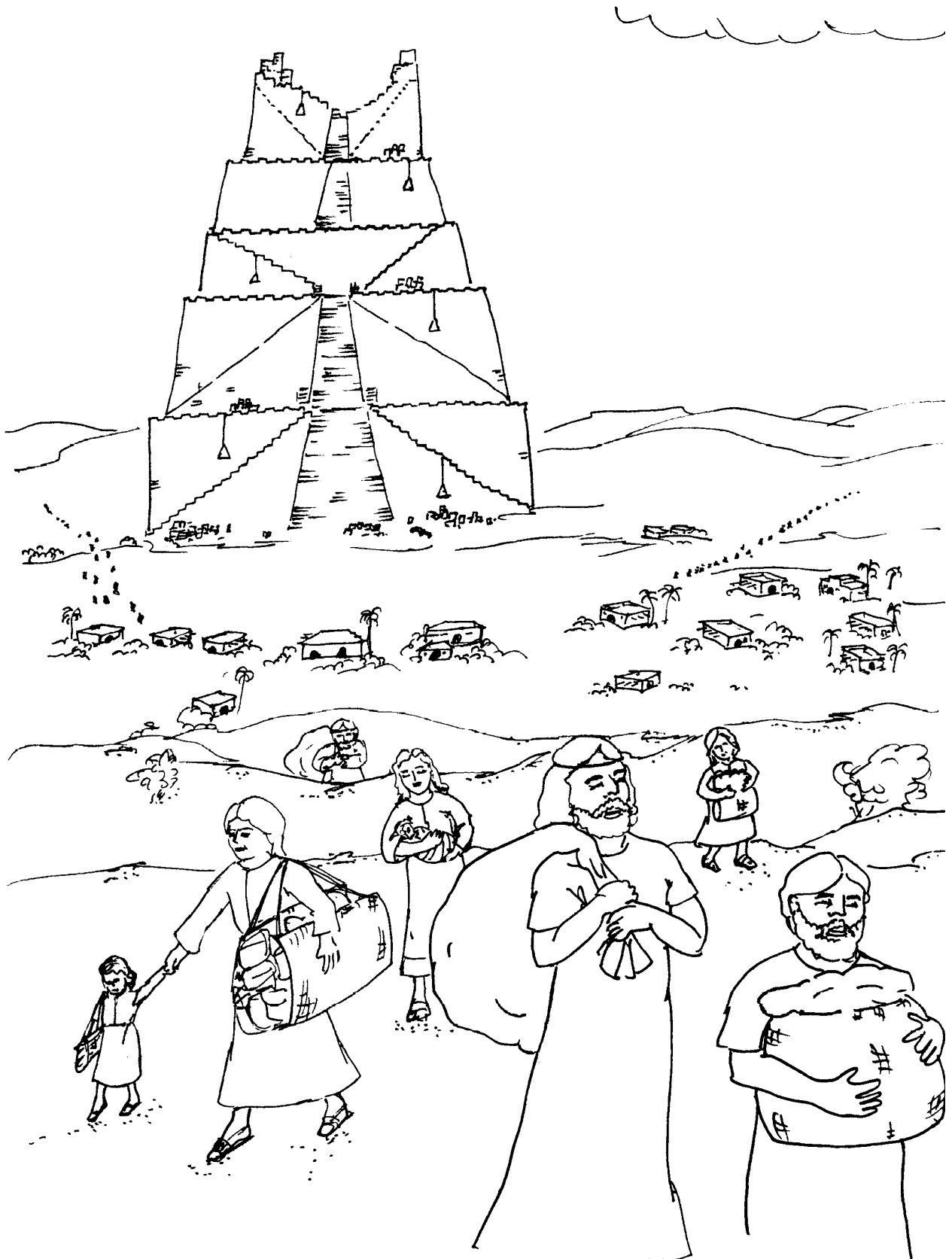
\_\_\_\_. Eh

E. Portuguese

BONUS: What happened that resulted in different languages?



# Tower of Babel



# Abram and Sarai Leave for the Promised Land



1GEN04

<b>Depart: Babel Destination: United States</b>	<b>Depart: Babel Destination: Mexico</b>	<b>Depart: Babel Destination: Canada</b>
<b>Depart: Babel Destination: India</b>	<b>Depart: Babel Destination: China</b>	<b>Depart: Babel Destination: Iran</b>
<b>Depart: Babel Destination: Romania</b>	<b>Depart: Babel Destination: Turkey</b>	<b>Depart: Babel Destination: bulgaria</b>
<b>Depart: Babel Destination: Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>Depart: Babel Destination: Madagascar</b>	<b>Depart: Babel Destination: Ethiopia</b>

# Pack Up!



Circle who or what Abram possibly took with him when the Lord told him to leave home.




# BABEL OR BLESSING?



Re-space the letters below to reveal the verse.

Iw ill ma key ouin toagr eat na ti on an  
dIw ill bles sy ou: Iw ill ma key ourn  
am egrea tan dy ouw ill be ables sing.

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ .”

## That's True, But...

When Abram said that Sarai was his sister, he was telling the truth, but not the whole truth. He withheld the important fact that they were married in order to deceive the Egyptians.

This is a true/false test with a twist. Some statements are completely true, but some, although partly true, aren't completely true.

**"T"** for true, and **"?"** for half-true.

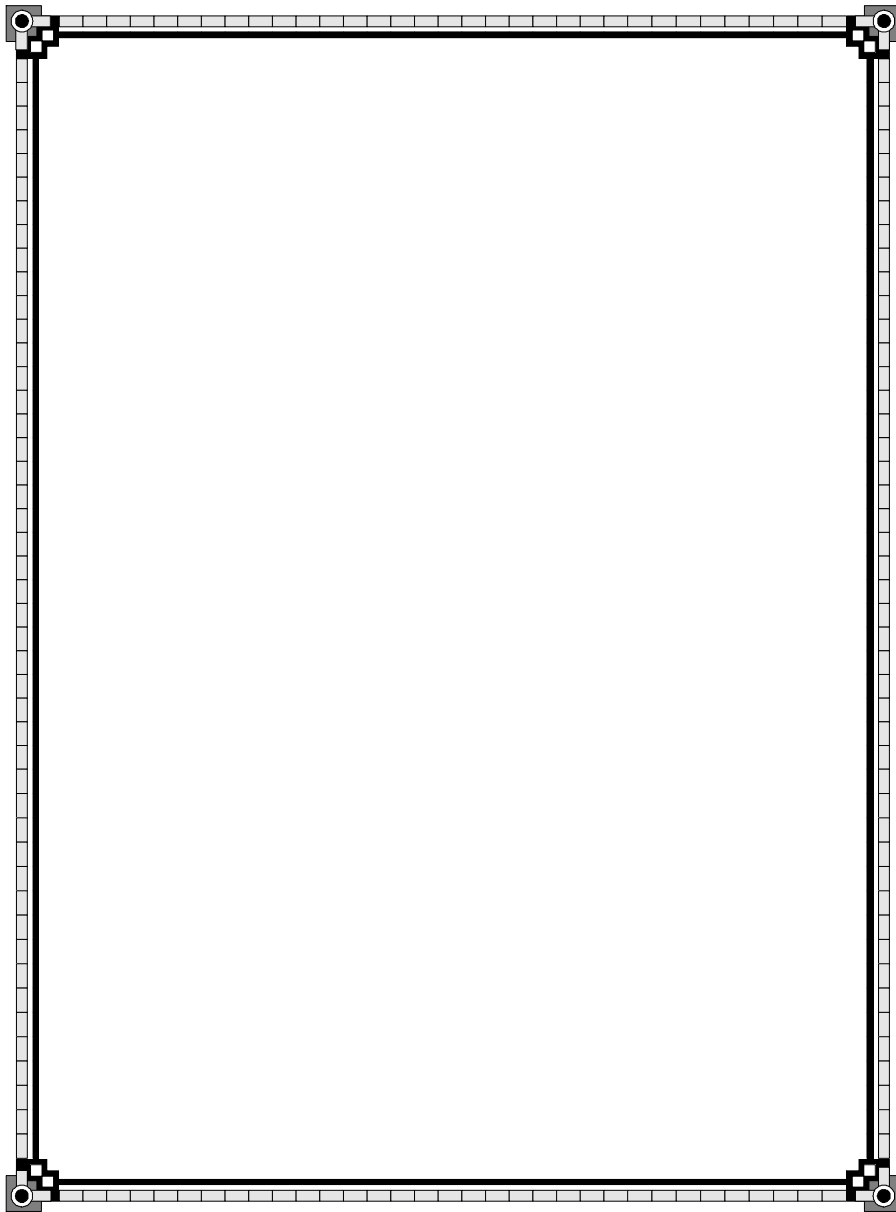


1. \_\_\_\_ The whole world once had one common language.
2. \_\_\_\_ The people built a city with the bricks they made.
3. \_\_\_\_ God did not approve of their tower because it was too high.
4. \_\_\_\_ God confused their language and scattered the people.
5. \_\_\_\_ When God told Abram to leave his country, his people, and his father's house, he obeyed.
6. \_\_\_\_ God promised to bless Abram and make his name great.
7. \_\_\_\_ God promised a blessing to all people on earth through Abram.
8. \_\_\_\_ Abram reached the Promised Land but went on to Egypt because he was afraid of the Canaanites.
9. \_\_\_\_ Sarai was so ugly that Abram was embarrassed to be known as her husband.
10. \_\_\_\_ Abram and Sarai told the truth about their relationship.
11. \_\_\_\_ God caused disease in Pharaoh's house because he tried to marry Sarai.
12. \_\_\_\_ Abram was kicked out of Egypt for bringing infectious germs.

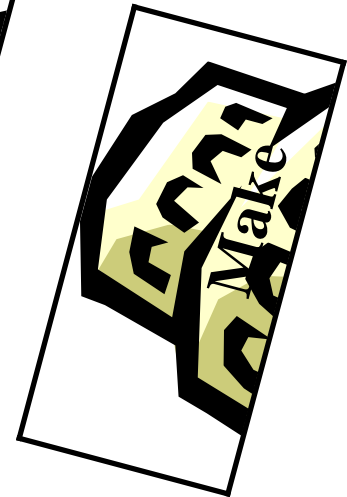


## A Great Name

The people of the earth built a city and a tower to “make their name great.” What **should** we do?



Cut out the pieces of the tower.  
“Build” the tower and glue it in place.



# Bless You!

In the verses below, fill in the correct form of the word “bless.”  
Words can be used more than once.

ble <u>s</u> s	ble <u>s</u> s <u>e</u> d	ble <u>s</u> s <u>i</u> ng
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“I will make you a great nation  
and I will \_\_\_\_\_ you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a \_\_\_\_\_.

I will \_\_\_\_\_ those who \_\_\_\_\_ you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be \_\_\_\_\_ through you.”

Genesis 12:2,3



Count Your Blessings  
How has God blessed you?



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