

MY BIBLE FIRST

PRIMARY YEAR A
Q 1 #10

Foolish Builders

SUNDAY

After the flood waters had gone down and Noah and his family were finally out of the ark, the first thing they did was thank God for keeping them safe. And God gave them a promise in a rainbow. What was His promise?


Now it was time to get to work. What do you suppose they did first? Build a house? Dig and plant a garden? Do you think they were busy? Yes.

But don't forget that Noah and his family were not the only ones who were busy after they left the ark. Satan was busy, too. Now he hated God more than ever. He was determined that he and his angels would do all that they could to again make people believe his lies about God.

In heaven, and also in our world before sin came, the angels, as well as Adam and Eve, were perfectly happy. They naturally obeyed God's law. In fact, no one even thought about rules.

After Lucifer sinned, how different everything was! In heaven, each angel chose whether to believe God or to believe Satan. Most of them chose to be loyal to God. But when Satan lied to Eve, she chose to believe him instead of believing God. Ever since then, it has been natural for us to disobey God.

But we must never forget that we can still choose. We don't have to obey Satan. And God will always help us if we ask Him. **Psalm 18:6; 107:19.**

 **THINK:** *Will God ever force us to obey His law? No. He wants us to love Him so much that we will choose to obey. Is He always beside us to help us? Yes.*



MEMORY VERSE

God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Psalm 53:2

Do you remember to ask Him to help you? You don't even have to be kneeling down every time. Just quickly ask Him in your mind when Satan tempts you.

MONDAY

As time went by after the Flood, lots of babies were born. They grew up, married, and more babies were born. It wasn't very many years before our world began to fill with people again.

Perhaps many of the children loved sitting on Grandfather Noah's lap and asking him to tell again and again about the Flood and what the world used to be like.


Also, Grandfather Noah probably told them about the beautiful garden that God had made. And he must have told them how sin started in our world when Eve chose to believe Satan instead of believing God.

He told them about the wonderful promise that some day Jesus would come to save them from Satan.

He taught them that sacrificing animals would help them to never forget that promise.

But many of Noah's grandchildren didn't want to listen. They made fun of the stories, and they blamed God for what the Flood had done to the earth. Some even made idols and started worshiping them. That made Noah very sad.

Noah's three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—had many grandchildren. For a long time they all kept living among the mountains where the ark had rested after the Flood. But Satan was tempting them to disobey God's law.

 **THINK:** *Noah is your many-times-great-grandfather, too. Our whole human family started first with Adam, and then with Noah. And every one of us can choose to belong to the family of God. Do you choose every day to belong to Him?*

TUESDAY

Finally, Ham and

3 Japheth and their families packed their things and moved to a flat plain beside a large river. The soil there was rich; and they knew that they could grow food, build their houses, and worship their idols without being bothered. Noah was very disappointed.

Shem and his family chose to stay among the mountains and be loyal to God. But the others thought that they could do whatever they pleased. They didn't remember that God was sadly watching them all the time. They had big plans, and they thought that there was no one to stop them. They even had everything that they needed to carry out their plans. **Genesis 11:4.**

Those foolish people actually thought that they could build a tower tall enough that they could go to the top of it and be perfectly safe if another flood came. They didn't believe God's promise that He would never send another flood, did they? And they surely didn't have any idea that our powerful God could destroy their tower as easily as knocking over a stack of blocks babies play with.


Day by day, the great tower grew. They made beautiful apartments inside the tower for the builders to live in. And they made special rooms where they worshiped

their idols.

Higher and higher went the tower. How proud the builders were! Soon the tower was so high, the workers at the bottom couldn't hear the workers at the top when they called down for bricks and other things that they needed. So the workers at the top had to call to

people in between, and those people would call down to the next people.

Everyone spoke the same language; so, of course, they could all understand each other. But is it a good idea for many people to be crowded together in one place? No.

 **THINK:** *Can you think of things that we can see or hear in the city, or that we can easily buy there to eat, that tempt us to disobey God's law? Can God keep us safe from Satan if our parents have to live in the city? Yes, but we need to ask Him to help us remember every day not to listen to Satan's temptations.*



WEDNESDAY

It was never God's plan for the people in our world to be crowded together in one place. He knew that it would be better for them to live in different places all over the world. He knew that it would be easier in big cities for Satan to tempt people to do bad things.

Even today, we can see how much wickedness there is in cities, can't we? Besides, there usually isn't enough room in cities to have big gardens and play outdoors. If you live in the country, you are very fortunate.

God decided that He would not allow the people to finish building their tower. How would he stop them? **Genesis 11:5–7.**

What a simple way to change everything! When a workman at the top needed bricks, he called to the next man below him. Maybe that man thought he was asking for water, so he called to the next man below him. Perhaps the next man below thought that he wanted some tools.

By the time someone carried up what he thought the man at the top had ordered, it wasn't what he

needed at all. What a mess it was! Workmen got angry. Fights started. People couldn't understand what other people were saying. Everyone thought that everyone else was crazy. There was no way that they could keep on building.

One day, a great flash of lightning came down from heaven and knocked off the top of the tower. Now there was nothing left to be proud of.



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someone who is Chinese? Mexican? Who else? Does God love them all? Do we send missionaries to tell people in other countries about how much God loves them?

FRIDAY

6 When God created Adam, his body was perfect; and he was more than twice as tall as people are now. After sin came, everything began to change. And after the Flood, things changed even more.

Before the Flood, people lived for hundreds and hundreds of years. Grandfather Noah was 600 years old when the Flood started. Then he lived for 350 more years after the Flood. Altogether, he was 950 years old when he died.

After the Flood, God gave permission for people to eat something that He had not given them permission to eat before the Flood. What was it? Yes, He permitted them to kill certain animals and eat them, even though that was not the best food.

As time went by, people didn't grow as tall, and they didn't live nearly as long as those who had lived before them. There was sickness and disease. People ate and drank bad things, and they did whatever they pleased. How sad!

THINK: *In heaven, Satan had bragged that his plans were better than God's. Were they?*

Does it make God happy when we choose to love, trust, and obey Him? Are we happier, too? Choosing to disobey His law always brings unhappiness in the end, doesn't it?

THINK: *Is it possible for people to be wiser than God? Of course not. Do children sometimes think that they know more than their parents? Who tempts us to think that we know more than we*

really do? Do you ever argue with your mother or father?



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THURSDAY

5 The city where the people had tried to build the huge tower was named Babel. That word means "confusion," or "mixed up." God had simply mixed up the way they talked, so they spoke different languages.

We don't know how many different languages they were speaking, but Satan's wicked plan had been spoiled.

As people tried to figure out what to do, they realized that those in the same family could understand each other. Then, families that could understand each other got together; packed their things, including their useless idols; and moved far away to other parts of the world. That is how the many nations in our world started. **Genesis 11:8, 9.**

Only Noah and Shem and their families still lived near where the ark had rested. They had chosen to obey God and His law.

THINK: *How many kinds of people can you name? How many do you know? Do you know*



FURTHER STUDY: Genesis 11:1–9; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 117–124; *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 72–74; *The Bible Story*, vol. 1, pp. 124–130.



THE STORY CORNER

The “Unsinkable” Titanic—part 1

Adapted from stories by Patti Lynn Guthrie

An ocean liner is a very large ship that can carry many people all the way across big, wide oceans. Many years ago, in England, some people who built large ships decided to make a huge ocean liner. It would be the largest ocean liner in the world. And it would be so strong that even a terrible storm would not make it sink. They would call it the *Titanic*.

The inside of the *Titanic* would be as grand as a palace. It would be like a beautiful hotel with expensive furniture and beautiful decorations. There would be many things for people to do as they sailed along. Children would have lots of places to play, or splash in swimming pools. Adults could read in a library or play games or swim or just sit and relax on the deck or in their cabins.

Finally, the great liner was ready for its very first trip on the ocean. And if you had been on a certain wharf in England one chilly April day about 100 years ago, you would have seen a huge crowd of excited people waving and cheering. They had come to see the largest ocean liner in the world and to wave goodbye to the people who were sailing on it.

Soon the great ship slowly moved away from the shore. It was starting on its trip across the Atlantic Ocean to America. There were more than 2,000 passengers on the beautiful liner, and there were many workers to take care of the passengers and the ship. Captain Smith was in charge of everything.

Everyone was eager to enjoy a wonderful trip. Right away, the passengers began getting settled in their cabins and having a good time. They probably



didn't worry about the icebergs that were floating in the ocean where they were crossing. And they probably didn't know that Captain Smith had been warned that there were more icebergs than usual that year.

Icebergs are very dangerous.

Only a little bit of an iceberg shows above the water. Most of an iceberg is out of sight under the water. Ships have to go way around them to keep from crashing into the part that they can't see.

Several nights after leaving England, the great ship was moving swiftly through the calm, quiet water. Almost everyone except the workers had already gone to bed. Only a few people were still up playing games. Some of the workers were getting ready for the next day.

It was very cold. There was no moonlight that night; and even though the stars were shining brightly, it was very dark. Captain Smith had told the watchmen to look carefully for icebergs.

Just 20 minutes before midnight, one of the watchmen saw something that terrified him. “Iceberg, right ahead!” the watchman shouted.

(To be continued)



Additional resources: nature lessons, activities, music, Bible lessons, Scripture memory, and more.

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Phone: 1-877-242-5317

Web: www.mybiblefirst.org • **E-mail:** sales@mybiblefirst.org

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