Six Days of Family Worship

When Our Plans Collide With God's Plan (September 7–12 • Genesis 11:1–9)

Instructions: Choose either the longer or shorter Scripture reading. Read it aloud, ask the questions that fit your children, sing or listen to the day's song, and finish by praying together. Keep it simple and warm; even 7–12 minutes can establish a meaningful family rhythm. Encourage every child to participate, even if a prayer is only one sentence.

One Truth for the Week

God graciously overturns our proud plans so his good purpose will prevail; in Christ, we can leave Babel behind and trust him with every plan we cannot see.

Day 1 — God Gives Us a Good Purpose

LONGER READING
Genesis 1:26–28; Genesis 9:1–7

SHORTER READING
Genesis 1:27–28

The main idea: God made people in his image and gave humanity a good purpose: fill the earth, care for his world, and represent him everywhere. After the flood, God repeated that purpose to Noah's family. Planning, building, and working are good gifts when we receive them from God and use them under his rule. Trouble begins when we ask God merely to bless our plans instead of trusting and obeying his plan.

Younger Children

- Who made people in his image?
- What did God tell people to fill?
- Did God give people a good purpose?
- Can we trust God's plan?

Older Children

- How does God's command to fill the earth help us understand Babel's rebellion?
- What does it mean for people to represent God as his image-bearers?
- Why can a good plan become dangerous when it leaves God out?
- Where are you tempted to seek God's blessing without first seeking his will?

Sing: Be Thou My Vision — Reawaken Hymns
This hymn asks God to be our first thought, true wisdom, and greatest treasure as we place our plans under his rule.
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Prayer Points

- Praise God for making people in his image and giving us a good purpose.
- Thank God for the work, abilities, and plans he has entrusted to your family.
- Ask God to help you seek his will before asking him to bless your plans.

Pray Together

Creator God, you made us for your glory and gave us a good purpose. Help us trust your wisdom and use every plan and ability under your loving rule. Amen.

Parent note: Help children see that the problem at Babel was not planning or building; it was using good gifts while resisting God's word and seeking life without him.

Day 2 — Pride Puts Us in God's Place

LONGER READING
Genesis 11:1–4; James 4:13–17

SHORTER READING
Genesis 11:3–4

The main idea: The people of Babel were skilled, united, and ambitious, but their own words exposed their hearts. They wanted a city for themselves, a famous name, and security apart from God. Pride puts our name, plans, and desires at the center of the story. We may build our identity on achievement, approval, money, family, or control, but none of these can give the security and worth that belong to us only through God.

Younger Children

- What did the people want to build?
- Whose name did they want to make famous?
- Did they obey God's plan to fill the earth?
- Who belongs at the center of our lives?

Older Children

- What three motives do the people reveal in Genesis 11:4?
- How can success or control become a modern tower?
- How is wise planning different from proud independence?
- What are you building without trusting God?

Sing: All I Have Is Christ — Sovereign Grace Music
This song confesses the emptiness of life ruled by self and celebrates Christ as our only true treasure and hope.
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Prayer Points

- Confess one way you have wanted your own way more than God's way.
- Thank Jesus that our worth and security do not depend on what we build.
- Ask God to make Christ, not approval or achievement, your greatest treasure.

Pray Together

Lord, forgive us for putting ourselves at the center. Free us from trusting what we can build, and teach us to find our worth, security, and joy in Christ. Amen.

Parent note: Encourage ambition that depends on God and uses his gifts for his glory, not our name.

Day 3 — Our Towers Are Small to God

LONGER READING
Genesis 11:4–5; Psalm 33:10–17

SHORTER READING
Genesis 11:5

Talk it through: The builders believed their tower reached into the heavens, yet the Lord had to come down to see it. What looked enormous on the plain of Shinar was tiny from heaven. God is never threatened by human strength or impressed by proud appearances. He sees every plan clearly and measures it by his wise and holy purpose.

Younger Children

- Did the tower make the people as great as God?
- Was God afraid of their tower?
- Who is greater than every person and building?
- Does God see every plan we make?

Older Children

- Why is it humorous that the Lord came down to see the tower?
- How does Psalm 33 compare human strength with God's power?
- How does God's greatness help us be humble?
- When might an impressive plan still be wrong?

Sing: Only a Holy God — CityAlight
This song turns our eyes from human greatness to the holy God who alone deserves our worship and trust.
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Prayer Points

- Praise God because no human power, achievement, or plan compares with him.
- Thank God that he sees your life completely and rules with perfect wisdom.
- Ask for humility to measure success by God's Word rather than appearances.

Pray Together

Holy God, you are greater than everything people can build or achieve. Give us humble hearts that seek your glory and trust your wisdom above our own. Amen.

Parent note: Celebrate good work while distinguishing humble excellence from achievement used to impress or replace God.

Day 4 — God's Loving No Can Be Mercy

LONGER READING
Genesis 11:5–9; Hebrews 12:5–11

SHORTER READING
Genesis 11:6–7

Talk it through: God saw where Babel's proud unity would lead. By confusing their language, he judged their rebellion, limited the evil they could accomplish together, and scattered them according to his purpose. His action was both judgment and mercy. God sees consequences we cannot see. When his Word says no or a door closes, we can trust that his wisdom is better than ours, even when we do not yet understand his direction.

Younger Children

- Did God understand what the people were doing?
- What did God change so they could not understand each other?
- Did God stop them because he was weak?

Older Children

- Why could the people's unity become dangerous when it was joined to rebellion?
- How was confusing their language both judgment and mercy?
- Why is God's Word more trustworthy than what seems best to us?
- How should we respond when God changes a plan we valued?

Sing: Jesus Strong and Kind — CityAlight
This song reminds us that Jesus is both powerful and kind, so we can come to him when we are fearful, weak, or disappointed.
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Prayer Points

- Thank God that his wisdom sees where every path in life will lead.
- Name a disappointment or closed door and place it in God's hands.
- Ask for faith to obey God's Word when his answer differs from what you want.

Pray Together

Wise and loving God, you see what we cannot see. When you say no or change our plans, help us obey your Word and trust that your purposes are good. Amen.

Parent note: Do not suggest that every disappointment is God's correction for a particular sin. Emphasize the sermon's careful point: an interruption in our plans is never evidence that God has lost control.

Day 5 — God Came Down to Save

LONGER READING
Genesis 12:1–3; Acts 2:1–12

SHORTER READING
Acts 2:6–11

Talk it through: Babel was not God's last word. God called Abraham and promised to bless every family on earth through him. That promise leads to Jesus, who came down from heaven, died for our pride and rebellion, and rose again. At Pentecost, people from many nations heard the good news in their own languages. God did not erase their differences; he began to gather one redeemed family through faith in Christ.

Younger Children

- Who promised to bless every family on earth?
- Who came down from heaven to save us?
- What did Jesus do after he died?
- Can people from every nation trust Jesus?

Older Children

- How does God's promise to Abraham answer the rebellion at Babel?
- What did Pentecost reveal about God's purpose for people with different languages from the nations of the world?
- Why can we never build our own way to God?
- Who needs to hear that Jesus died and rose to save sinners?

Sing: There Is One Gospel — CityAlight
This song centers the family on the one good news: Jesus died, rose, and is the sure hope of everyone who trusts him.
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Prayer Points

- Thank Jesus for coming down in grace to die and rise for sinners.
- Pray for someone who is still trying to live apart from God.
- Ask God to help your family share the good news of Jesus with love and courage.

Pray Together

Jesus, we could not build our way to you, so you came to save us. Thank you for dying and rising from the dead for us. Gather people from every nation through faith in you. Amen.

Parent note: State the gospel simply and invite a real response: we have sinned, Jesus died and rose, and everyone who turns from sin and trusts him is forgiven and brought to God.

Day 6 — God's City Will Stand

LONGER READING
Revelation 21:1–5, 10, 22–27

SHORTER READING
Revelation 21:24–26

Talk it through: At Babel, proud people tried to build a city with a tower up to heaven and gather without God. In Revelation, God's holy city comes down from heaven for all believers to live with and worship him forever. Its gates stand open, the nations walk in God's light, and the Lord lives with his people. Babel's tower was abandoned unfinished, but God's saving purpose will stand forever. Through Christ, we can belong to that coming city and trust God with every changed plan.

Younger Children

- Who sends the holy city down from heaven?
- Will there be any darkness there?
- Who will walk in God's light?
- Can we trust God's plan to finish well?

Older Children

- How is God's holy city different from the city the people built at Babel?
- What security and identity does Christ give that our towers cannot provide?
- How does the coming city help us face disappointment now?
- What does it mean for you to leave Babel behind and trust Christ?

Sing: Christ Our Hope in Life and Death — Getty, Matt Papa, CityAlight
This song celebrates Christ as our sure hope now, at death, and in the resurrection life God has promised.
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Prayer Points

- Praise God that his holy city and saving purpose will surely come.
- Thank Jesus that everyone who trusts him belongs to God's forever family.
- Place one changed or uncertain plan into God's wise hands.

Pray Together

Faithful God, your plan will stand. Keep us from building life without you. Help us trust Christ, walk in your light, and place every uncertain plan in your hands. Amen.

Parent note: End with hope rather than fear. God does not merely tear down proud plans; in Christ he gives forgiveness, a new identity, and a secure place in his coming kingdom.