

The Tower of Babel

By Kathy Applebee

Content area: Bible, ancient history, communication

Based on: Genesis 11

Recommended Ages/ target audience: Upper elementary to adult

Ideal Group Size: 9 or more

Suggested Time: How long do you anticipate players needing to complete this game? 30-40 minutes

STORY: You have been locked in a tower dubbed the 21st Century Tower of Babel. All those who enter find themselves at some sort of communication disadvantage. These disadvantages become permanent unless you find the KEY to the tower and exit within one hour. Those who can and will work together despite handicaps will obtain the key and a prize.

Lock Combinations: What codes will open the locks on the box?

5 letter lock earth

3 number combo 201

4 number combo 1725

4 color blue green red yellow

Setup Instructions:

1 Print the materials, clues and answer keys

- 2 Use the UV pen to highlight the highlighted letters shown on answer key illustrated account of *Genesis 11* and to draw the circles around the specific colors circled in pictures
 - 3 Put the "KEY" (see story) and prize(s) in the small box and lock with 6 lock hasp which is locked by three locks: number combo 3 and 4 and the color lock.
 - 4 Put the small box, UV flashlight and illustrated account of *Genesis 11* in the large box
 - 5 Put letter lock on outside box
 - 6 Students randomly draw "disabilities" or are assigned disabilities. Another option if participants know a language other than English is to have them use only that language. If fewer than 9 play, discard disabilities or assign 2 to some players. Allow participants time to figure out how they will deal with their disability and still contribute to the group.
- OPTION: Add 30 seconds to a minute to the time if any participant "cheats" by NOT adhering to his or her communication disadvantage.
- 7 Turn on radio to a between stations spot that has static full blast (or use some other source of white noise)
 - 8 Post or give out copies of the crossword to start

Reflection Questions:

- 1 What was the most difficult part of reaching a solution?
- 2 How did your communication disadvantage affect your performance? Add to your frustration?
- 3 How do the disadvantages relate to what happened at Babel?
- 4 If you had to choose, which disadvantage would you choose?
- 5 How are these three scriptures related? The Lord said, "If they have begun to do this as one people all having the same language, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them." In John 17:11 and

22, Jesus prays "May they be one as We are one." 1 Corinthians 12:12ff "For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ."

6 Based on your experience, how could others help those who have a communication disadvantage?

Tags or Keywords: Bible, Genesis, Babel, Babylon, tower, speech disorder, language disorder, disability