

Discovery Adventure #5
The Bad Idea That Changed the World
Genesis 9:1-11

A young boy waved goodbye forever to his best friend. A girl wiped the tears from her eyes as she walked away from her boyfriend. Everyone went away. Nothing would ever be the same.

It happened because of the big, bad idea. The people thought they could trick God. Let's look in our Book of Secrets and see what happened when they tried it. And on our way, we will see the answer to a question. Why do people speak different languages in other countries? Everyone wonders about that. Why do people in Thailand speak Thai, the people in Mexico, Spanish, and the people in America, English? You are about to discover the reason.

The floodwaters of Noah's day went down into the sea and many years passed by. Noah's great-grandchildren and great-great-great grandchildren forgot about serving God. They went their own wicked way just as the people did before the flood.

That's when they came up with the terrible plan.

"Let's build a tower," they said. "One that will reach all the way up to heaven."

Maybe they remembered the stories of God's anger and decided they wanted to build a place safe from another flood.

Can you ever get high enough away to escape from God? Of course not.

Maybe they wanted to build a tower so big because they wanted to be able to find their way back to the other people in case they were separated. They didn't want to go out and settle the whole earth like God told them to. They wanted to be able to look up and see the mountain-high tower on the skyline and find their way back.

Maybe the "tower that reached unto heaven" meant they wanted to use it to worship the

sun, moon, and stars.

Whatever the reason, we know it was a bad idea. God did NOT want them to build that tower. He wanted them to spread out, not stay together. He wanted them to stop sinning, and to do right. God is more powerful than any person or group of people. They thought they could outsmart God. They were wrong!

In those days all the people spoke the same language. They could work together and build things because they could understand each other. As long as they could communicate, they could do just about anything. So, God stopped their rebellious plan by doing something no one thought of before. He mixed up their language.

Suddenly, they couldn't understand each other. A person might try to say, "Help me, please," and it came out "Chewy Dewa." The others didn't understand what he meant, so they didn't help him. They couldn't talk to each other, so they couldn't get anything done.

The plan came to a stop as the people quit building the giant tower.

A group of people who spoke the same language found each other. They figured out that it was no use trying to live with people who didn't understand them. They packed up their belongings and went away together.

Other groups of people did the same thing. They ended up doing exactly what God wanted them to do. They scattered out through the whole earth instead of staying in one place.

They called the tall tower **the Tower of Babel**, because that's where the languages were mixed up. Now you know why people speak different languages in other countries. God changed one language into many on that day long ago so that the people would stop rebelling and do what God told them to do.

God's Secret Message for You

Can you outsmart God? No, He knows everything. He knows the thoughts you are thinking. He is so much smarter than any person or group of people that He can easily stop any plan they might have.

Yet, people are silly enough to think they can trick God or get Him to do something they want. The lesson from the story of the Tower of Babel is that God is all-powerful. People can never fool Him or trick Him. He will always do what He says He will do.

Brain Glue

What was the big, bad idea?

They decided to build a giant tower.

What was the name of the tower the rebellious people built?

The Tower of Babel

Did God want them to build the tower?

No

How did God stop the people from building the tower?

He mixed up their languages.

Can anyone outsmart God?

No, God knows everything.

Think About It

Why can't you fool God or avoid His judgment?

Do you think it is smart to try and fight against God?

If enough people get together, can they defeat God? Why not?