



UNIT 2 | SESSION 4

## PEOPLE REBEL AGAINST GOD

GENESIS 10–11

### KEY PASSAGE:

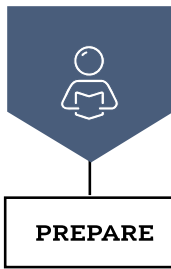
Romans 3:23

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

People wanted glory for themselves instead of God. They ignored God's plan, so God confused their language and scattered them all over the earth. One day, Jesus will gather together all of God's people—from every tribe and language—and they will worship Him together.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

We love to measure the health, success, or sustainability of pretty much anything and everything. We measure our kids by their grades in school. We measure teams by their wins and losses. We measure people by their influence and following on social media. In a world obsessed with measuring “success,” we ought to be assessing in our own lives something we cannot see: our motivation.

We can define motivation simply as the reason we do something. Motivation is the driving force behind the decisions we make. There is a reason for everything that we do—both big and small—but what that motivation is might not be obvious to those around us.

In Genesis 11, Noah’s family had grown and began to rebuild the earth’s population. At some point along the way, they decided to ignore God’s command to spread out and subdue the earth for God’s glory. Instead, the people decided to build a tower to show their greatness. Their motivation was both obvious and arrogant.

Read Psalm 127:1-2. These verses provide a blatant reminder that God is the only true builder. His glory is our only proper motivation. Additionally, this psalm gives us a promise that those who love God will be able to rest from being driven by selfish motivation.

Doesn’t it sound pretty attractive to be able to rest from selfish motivation that plagues so much of our thinking and behavior? In God’s economy, He’s less worried with the outcome of our decisions and more concerned with the reason for our decisions. That’s not to say that it doesn’t matter what we do. Rather, if our motivation is right—if our hearts are right—our actions will follow. And not only will our motivation and behavior honor God, but much of the anxiety of life will fade away too.

When was the last time you measured your motivation? Is the driving force behind what you do making a name for yourself, your kids, or even your church? Or is the primary desire driving your life boasting in the name of Christ? Read Psalm 127:1 again. May we be driven by God’s glory and not our own.

### PLACES TO KNOW

**Babel:** Name given to the city that the disobedient descendants of Noah built so they would not be scattered over all the earth. Referred to as Babylon in some Bible translations.



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Can you think of a time you were successful at something? What was it? Now think of a time you tried something and failed. What happened?”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

#### OPTION 1: STAND AGAINST GAME



Invite kids to play a game similar to “Simon Says.” Call out a command, preceding it with “Simon says ... .” (“Simon says touch your nose.”) Explain that kids should play this game opposite of the usual method. When Simon says to do something, do not do it. But if you do not say, “Simon says ... ,” then kids should do the command.

Suggested commands: Sit down, clap your hands, turn around in a circle, pat your belly, do a silly dance, pretend you are sleeping, do a push up, stand on one foot.

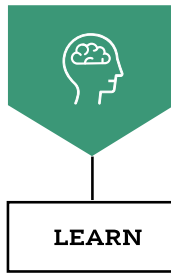
**SAY** “Can anyone tell me what it means to rebel? [Allow kids to respond.] To rebel is to stand against or oppose the one in authority. In our game, ‘Simon’ was in a position of authority. Who has authority in our lives? (teachers, leaders, parents, God) As we will learn today, all people have rebelled against God. What does that mean? What are the consequences? We’ll soon find out.”

#### OPTION 2: ON THE “THRONE”

Before the session, write numbers on index cards from 1 to the number of kids in your group. Tape each number card to the underside of a chair. Set up chairs in a circle with the backs of the chairs toward the center. Remove one chair so you have one less chair than the number of players.

Instruct kids to walk around the circle while you play music. When you pause the music, everyone should find a seat. The player left standing will choose a remaining number. The player sitting in that chair is out. Remove that player’s chair from the circle, too. Play additional rounds as time allows.

**SAY** “Only one person could sit in each chair. Think of a throne. How many people can sit on the throne? Just one! When you hear today’s Bible story, remember a throne. We’re going to talk about who sits on the ‘throne’ in your life. Is it you? Or God? Or someone else?”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### **LEARN** the Bible Story

#### **1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)**

Open your Bible to Genesis 10–11. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “People Rebel Against God.” Use the bolded text to retell or review the story.

#### **PEOPLE REBEL AGAINST GOD**

“After the great flood, God told Noah and his sons to grow their families and fill the earth. As their families grew, the people started to travel through the land. At this time, everyone in the world spoke the same language.

**One day, the people traveled through a valley. They liked it there and decided to stay.**

**“We don’t want to be scattered all over the earth,” they said. “Let’s build a city and a tower so big that it touches the sky. The tower will make us famous!”**

The people made bricks out of clay and baked them in the fire to make stones. Then they used the stones to start building the tower. **They wanted glory for themselves instead of God. But God is greater than anyone. God created people to give glory to Him alone.**

**God came down to look at the tower. God said, “If they are doing this, they will keep thinking up more wrong things to do.” So God mixed up the people’s words. Instead of everyone speaking the same language, everyone spoke different languages.**

When people tried to make plans, they could not understand what other people were saying. If one workman said, “Hand me another brick,” nobody else knew what he wanted.

**The people had to stop building the city. Families had to move away from each other to live with people they could understand. God made it so the people did just what He had told them to do after the flood. They were scattered all over the world. The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel.**

Christ Connection: People wanted glory for themselves instead of God. They ignored God’s plan, so God confused their language and scattered them all over the earth. One day, Jesus will gather together all of God’s people—from every tribe and language—and they will worship Him together. ”

#### **STORYTELLING TIPS**

**Move around:** Avoid standing still as you tell the story. Move from one side of the room to the other to reflect action in the story.

**Use props:** As you tell the story, stack blocks into a tower.

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ God had commanded Noah and his sons to grow their families and fill the earth. Is that what happened? No. The people rebelled against God. They did not obey Him. Instead, the people wanted to build a great tower. Was it really that great? Look at Genesis 11:5. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Gen. 5:11.] God came down to look at the tower. It did not reach to heaven. When people try to gain the glory that only God deserves, they fall short.

Did the people’s rebellion stop God’s plan for people to fill the earth? Look at Genesis 11:8. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Gen. 11:8.] God confused their language so they had to spread out.

The people chose to disobey God. They wanted to be as important as God. They were saying ‘Look how great we are,’ instead of ‘Look how great God is.’ They wanted glory for themselves instead of God. But God is greater than anyone. God created people to give glory to Him alone.

Sin is in all of our hearts, so we believe lies that lead to unbelief, or not trusting God. These lies lead to idolatry, or putting other things in the place of God. They also lead to rebellion, resisting or turning against God. We might try to follow our own feelings or ideas to make us happy or feel in control. But like Eve in the garden, listening to our own hearts is actually listening to the lies of Satan. Going our own way will always lead to disappointment and—apart from God—to death. But God offers us forgiveness through Jesus when we are sorry for our sin. Jesus came to bring rebellious sinners back to God. ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ People wanted glory for themselves instead of God. They ignored God’s plan, so God confused their language and scattered them all over the earth. We can hear this story and look forward to Jesus. One day, Jesus will gather together all of God’s people—from every tribe and language—and they will worship Him together. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ In what ways do people rebel against God today? ”

Remind kids that all sin is rebellion against God. **What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, say, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.** Allow kids to share their ideas of ways people sin against God. Point out that we fail to love God and others in the way He has commanded. Our rebellion breaks God’s heart, and He wants us to turn back to Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 1:14.)

| **SAY** “ Can our disobedience stop God’s good plan? ”

Remind kids that God is at work in the world and in control of all things. Our sin and rebellion separates us from God. We deserve God’s judgment. But God loves us and offers us grace. We know from the Bible that in the end, Jesus will return and God’s plans will succeed. Any rebellion against God will fail, but we can align ourselves with God through Jesus and be part of His good plan.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 33:11.)

| **SAY** “ What opportunities has God given you in your neighborhood, school, community, and beyond to make God’s name great? What steps will you take this week to do that? ”

Invite kids to share their ideas. Suggest they tell others the good news about what God has done for rebellious people. Kids might choose one or two people to reach out to this week. Pray for God to prepare those people’s hearts. Kids may also invite other kids to join them at church.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 2:10.)