

Lower Elementary

Introduction:

Have you ever built or made something with your friends or family you were very, very proud of? Explain.

Have you ever been to a foreign country? Or met someone that spoke another language? What was it like to speak with them?

How would it have been like to build/make (from #1) if you'd had to do it with person from (#2)?

Have you ever been doing something you thought was a good idea, only to have your parents scold/punish you, because it was in fact, a very bad idea? (try to think of an example from your own life...making mom breakfast in bed but creating a huge mess)

After the flood, Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their three daughters-in-law, were the only people on earth. Their sons names were Shem, Ham and Japheth. They started having children-many children! And after a few generations, the land was filling up with more people again.

After Noah and his family left the ark, God had one instruction for them: live everywhere on earth. God wanted humans to spread out and fill up the whole planet. But people didn't really like that plan. They wanted to stay where they were. After all, it was comfortable and convenient and it was what they were already used to.



So everyone stayed in this one tiny part of the earth and the space was starting to get a bit crowded. They began to build upward, founding a city called Babel. Babel was beautiful. It was the beginning of civilization. It really showed off all the new things humans had learned how to do. God had given humans creativity-a desire to make things, like God made us. By now, humans had invented all kinds of incredible things, like wheels and pottery and bricks and bronze tools. With a place like this, people began to feel like they didn't need God. They could make up their own beliefs about the world, worshiping creation instead of their Creator.



Not only didn't people want to follow God's instructions, they wanted to be like God. They wanted other people to look up to them. So they built an enormous tower to show off how powerful they were. "Let's make a name for ourselves," they told each other. "This way, we won't be scattered over the whole earth."

Even though God wants us to be creative, He doesn't want us to use that creativity to try and replace Him. He doesn't want us to think we can just create our own ways of doing things.



God knew that people could never reach Him on their own. They needed God to come to them. So to stop this silliness, God confused people. He made their language split into several languages, so no one could understand each other anymore. They had to stop building their city and tower.



Each group of people who spoke the same language moved together to a different part of the world, and finally people were following God's command to fill up the whole earth.

God wants us to be faithful to His instructions. We will often find that if we don't, He comes up with clever ways of getting us to do what we are supposed to.



Closing Discussion:



What was the promise of the rainbow from last week? (God put a rainbow in the sky and promised never to wipe out people again)

What was wrong with God's people building a tower to be closer to Him? (they were displaying their own genius, and showing God they didn't need Him, they could do it on their own)

Does God want us to do things FOR Him or WITH him? (WITH him...) Why?

How has He shown us that He wants to be WITH us?

We can't reach Heaven, so what did God do to reach down to us? (came to earth and had Jesus give His life to bridge the gap)

Craft:

Paper Towel Roll Tower of Babel

Closing Activity:

Tower of Babel Coin Toss

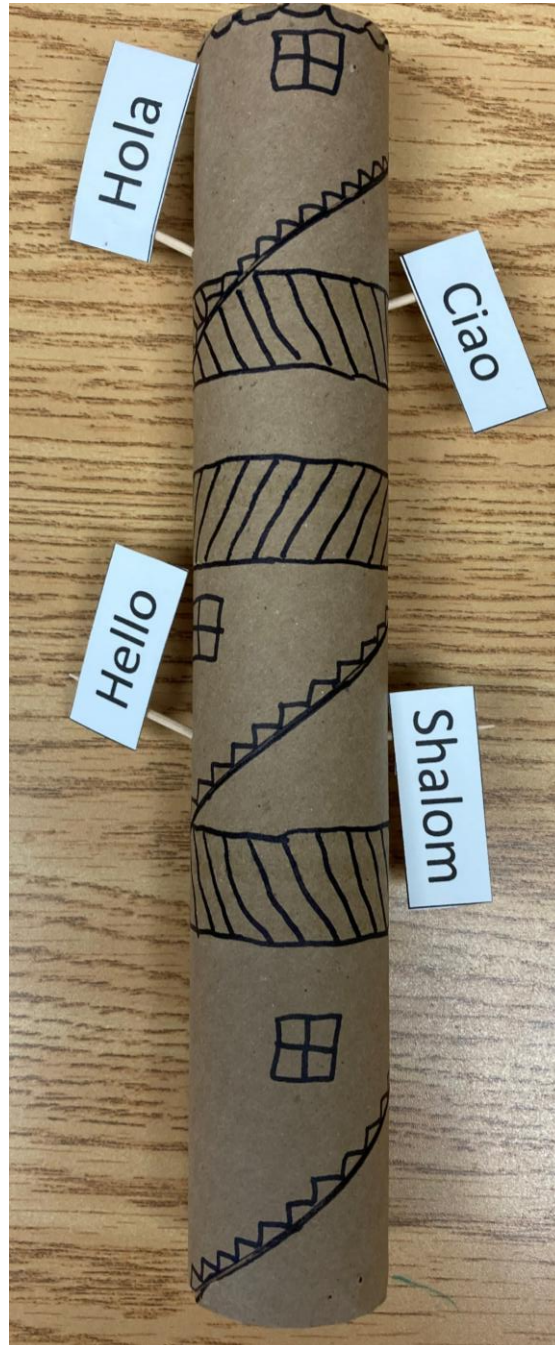
Print Tower of Babel pages onto yellow/orange cardstock or laminate.

Tape together to form a ziggurat, with the smallest piece on top and the largest on the bottom.

Have children take turns tossing a coin onto different levels of the Tower of Babel.

When it lands, have them imagine what language someone building that section might have spoken.

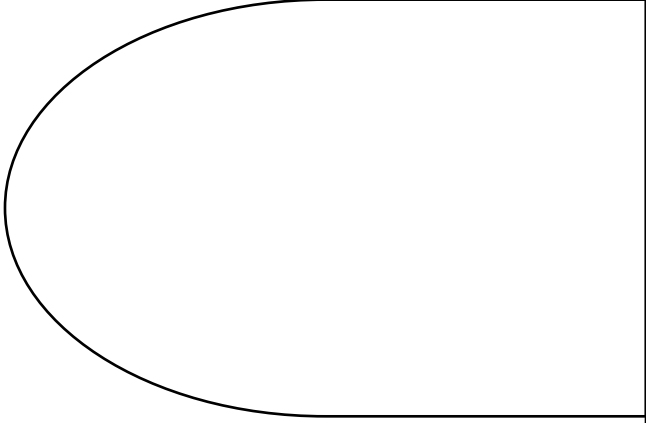
- ❖ Children color and cut out Hello cards.
- ❖ Children draw bricks and windows on paper towel roll.
- ❖ Children glue cotton balls to top of tower.
- ❖ Teacher tapes Hello cards to side of tower.
- ❖ “Good Works” can be cut out to wrap around tower like stairs or serve as platform to glue tower onto.

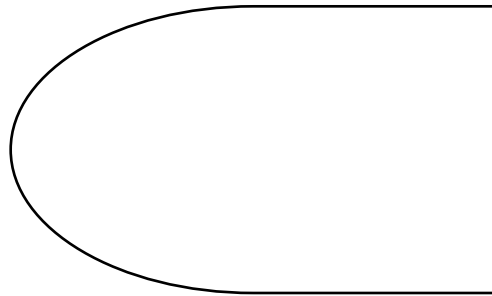
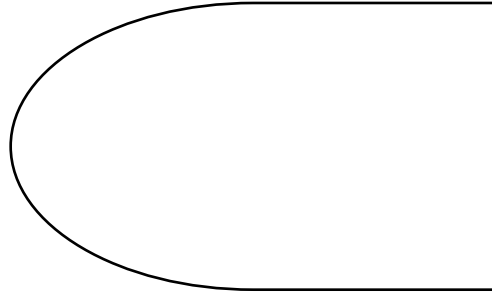


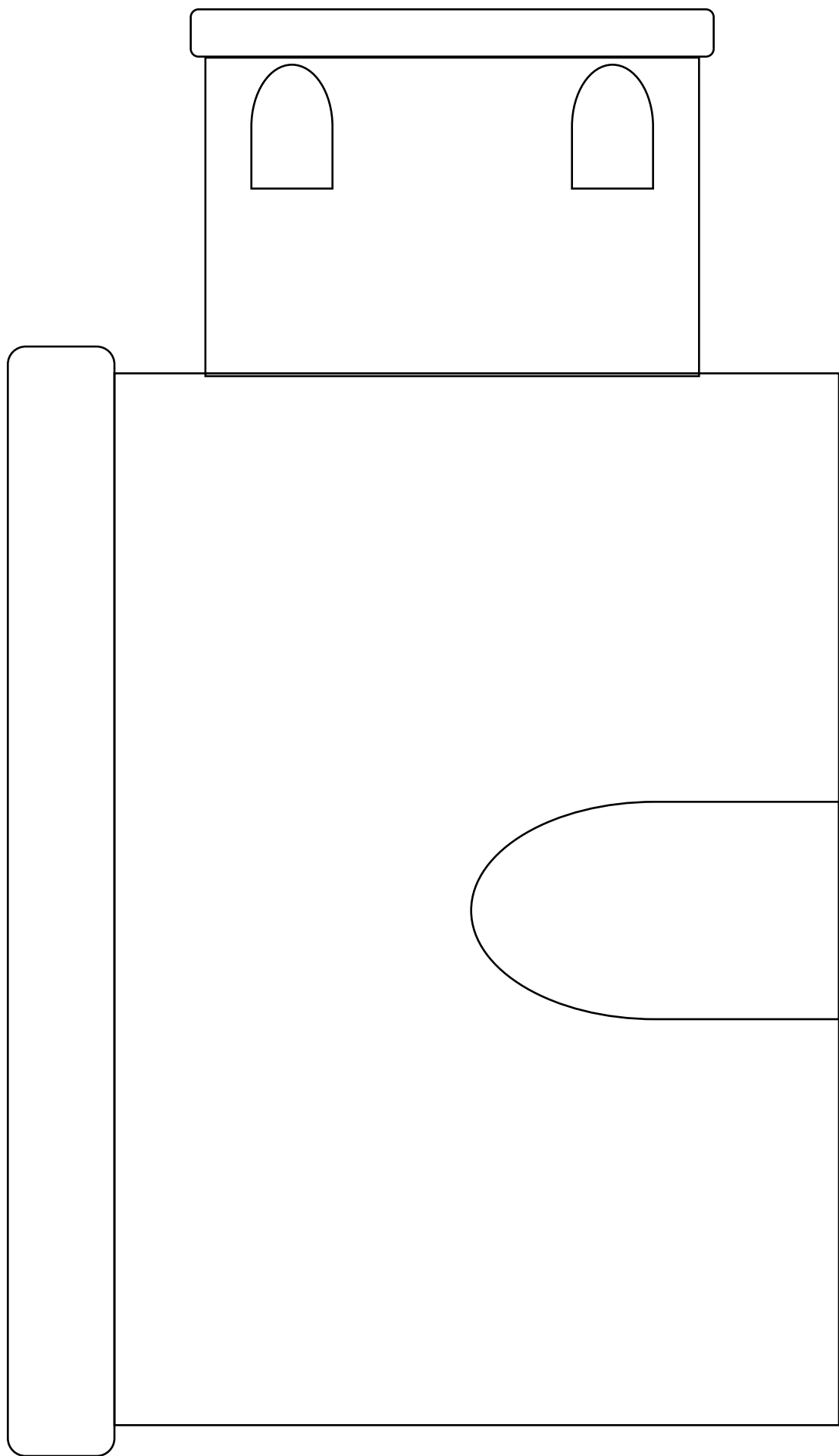


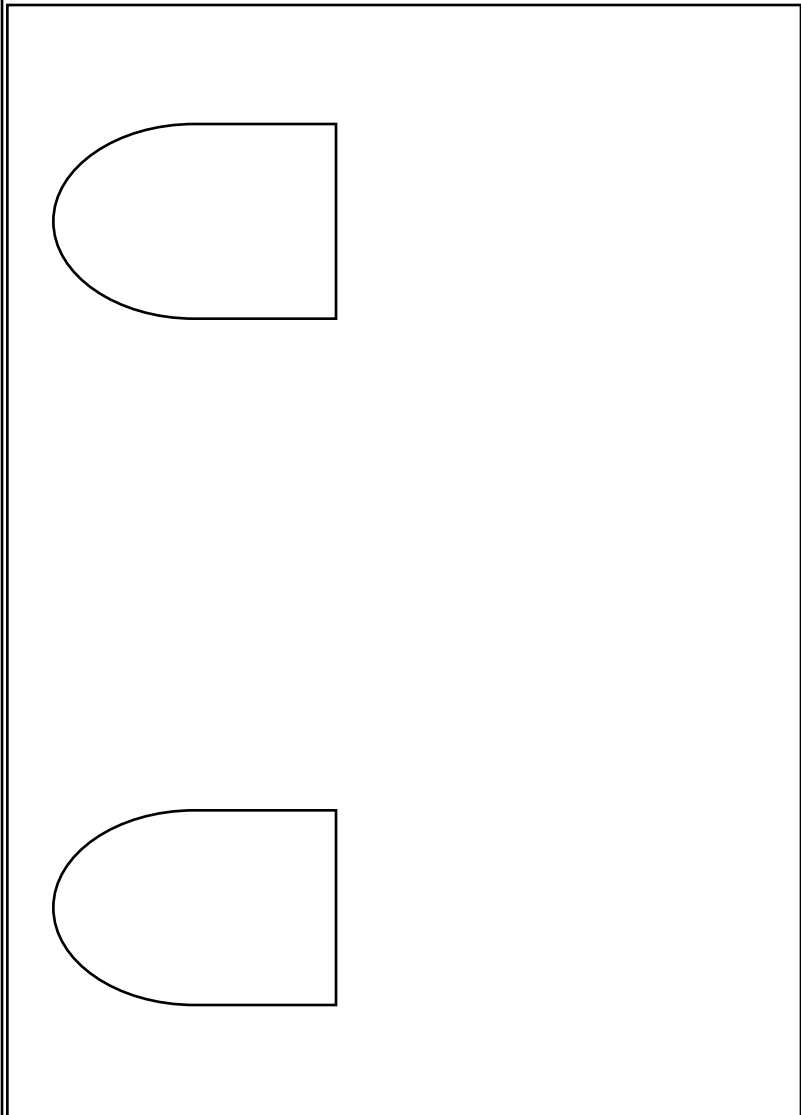
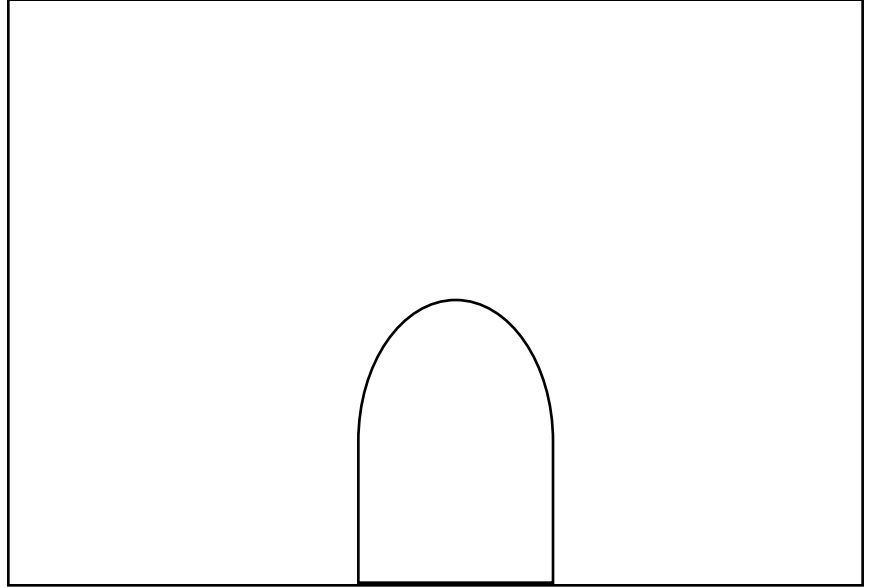
GOD DOESN'T SAVE US BECAUSE WE DO GOOD WORKS.

WE DO GOOD WORKS BECAUSE GOD HAS SAVED US.



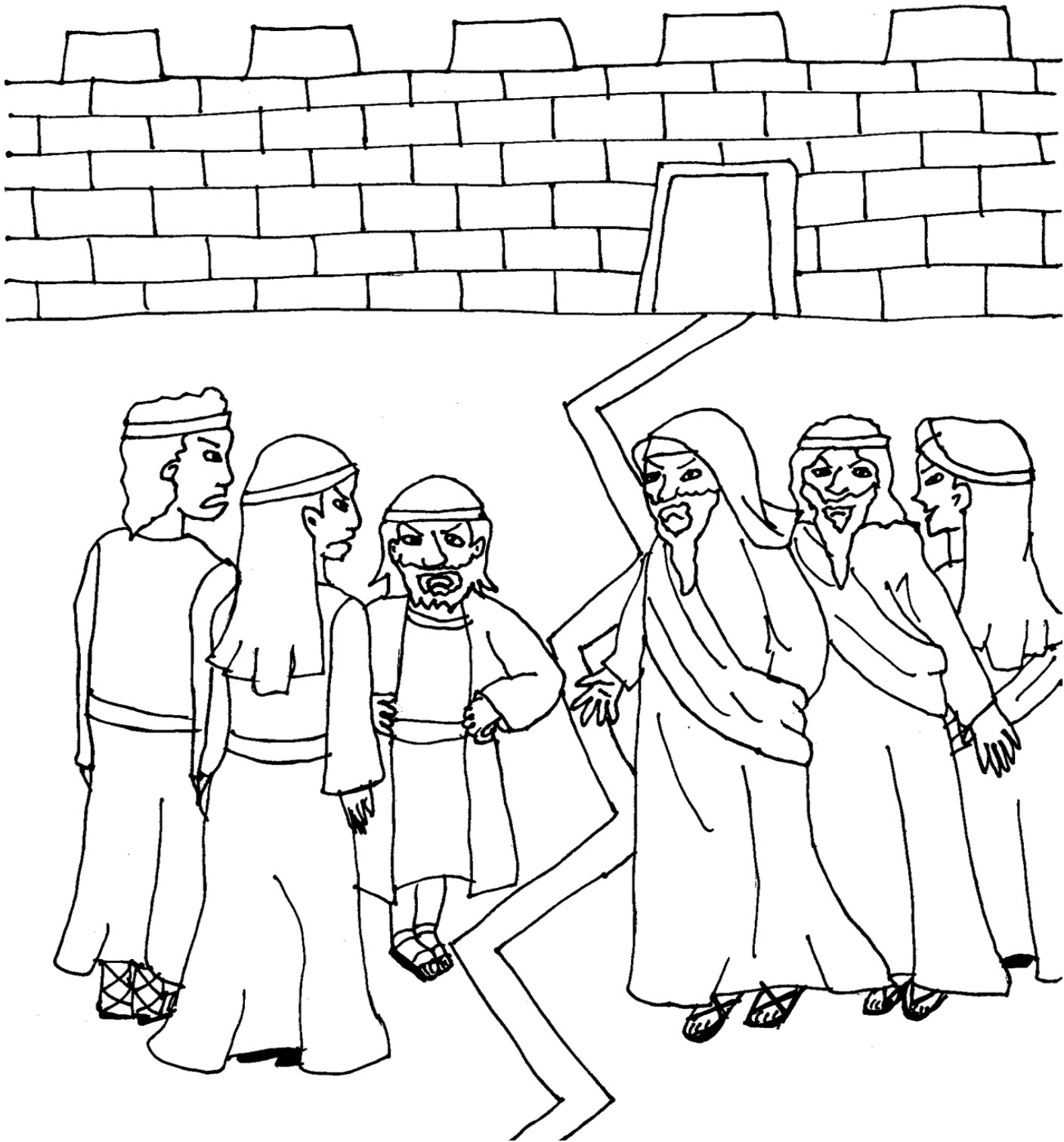






Babel

Name: _____



So the LORD scattered them all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. ~ Genesis 11:8

[illegible]

<p>Konichiwa (koh-nee-chee-wah) ~Japanese~</p>	<p>Ya at ee (yah aht ay) ~Navajo~</p>
<p>Hola (oh-la) ~Spanish~</p>	<p>Shalom (shah-lohm) ~Hebrew~</p>
<p>Ciao (chow) ~Italian~</p>	<p>Dia duit (dee-ah doo-it) ~Irish~</p>
<p>Aloha (ah-loh-ha) ~Hawaiian~</p>	<p>Ni hao (nee how) ~Chinese~</p>
<p>Hujambo (hoo-jam-bo) ~Swahili~</p>	<p>Geia sas (gay-ah sas) ~Greek~</p>