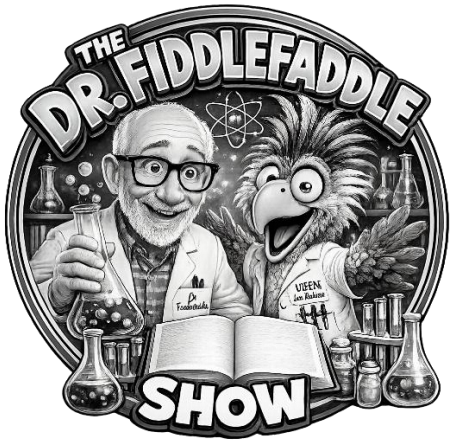



# The Tower of Disobedience
# Teacher's Guide

## 1. Lesson Purpose

The children will learn that after the Flood, God gave Noah and his family a specific command:
**"Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."** — Genesis 9:1, KJV
Years later, the people chose to do something different. Instead of spreading throughout the earth as God commanded, they decided to stay together and build a city and a tower. Their plans may have seemed wise to them, but **they were disobeying God.** The lesson teaches children that:
**Disobedience often begins when we decide that our way is better than God's way.**

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## 2. Main Lesson Thought

### God's Way or Our Way?

The people of Babel said: **"Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven."** They wanted to make a name for themselves and remain together. But God had already told Noah and his family to: **"replenish the earth."** They chose **their plan instead of God's plan.**

### Main point for children:

**It doesn't matter how good our plan looks if it is against God's Word.**

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## 3. Background: What Happened Before Babel?

Before we get to Genesis 11, remind the children about Noah. God had judged the wickedness of the world with the Flood. Noah, his family, and the animals were saved in the ark. After the Flood, God gave Noah and his family a command.
**Read Genesis 9:1 KJV** "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

**Explain:** God wanted Noah's family and their descendants to **fill the earth.** God wasn't giving them a suggestion. **He was giving them a command.**

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## 4. The People Had One Language

Turn to Genesis 11.
**Read Genesis 11:1 KJV** "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech."
Explain that everyone could understand everyone else. There were no different languages yet.
They could communicate with one another very easily.

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## 5. They Found a Plain

**Read Genesis 11:2 KJV** "And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there." The people found a place they liked.
It was a plain in the land of **Shinar**.Instead of continuing to spread throughout the earth, they decided to settle there.

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## 6. Their Plan

**Read Genesis 11:3–4.**
The people began making bricks and decided to build a city. Then they said: **"Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven."** And notice what they said next: **"And let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."**

**Ask the children: "Why didn't they want to be scattered?"**
Because they wanted to stay together. They were deliberately resisting God's command to replenish the earth.

**Important teaching point:** The problem wasn't simply that they wanted to build a tower.
**The problem was that they were building it in rebellion against God's command.**

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## 7. What Was Wrong With Their Plan?

The people had decided: **"We're going to stay right here."** God had said: **"Replenish the earth."** Their plan was: **Their way.** God's command was: **God's way.** This connects directly to our memory verse.

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## 8. Memory Verse — Proverbs 14:12

**Read Proverbs 14:12 KJV "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."**
Explain the word **"seemeth."** It means something can **appear** to be right. The people at Babel probably thought their plan was wonderful. They were working together. They were building something impressive. They were making a city. They were making a tower. But there was one major problem: **Their way was not God's way.**

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## 9. God Came Down

Read Genesis 11:5 KJV: "And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded." The children may find this interesting. God didn't need a tower to reach Him. The tower wasn't actually reaching heaven. God was showing that He knew exactly what they were doing.

**Teaching point: God sees what we do.** We cannot hide our disobedience from God.

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## 10. God Confused Their Language

Read Genesis 11:6–7.
God said: **"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."**
Suddenly, they couldn't communicate with one another as they had before. Imagine one worker asking for a brick and another worker not understanding what he was saying! The building project stopped.

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## 11. The Tower Was Never Finished

**Read Genesis 11:8 KJV** "So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city." God accomplished what He had originally commanded. The people were scattered across the earth.

**Ask: "Who was in control—the people or God?" God was in control.** They had tried to resist God's command, but they could not defeat God's purpose.

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## 12. Why Was It Called Babel?

**Read Genesis 11:9 KJV** "Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth…" The name **Babel** is connected with the confusion of their language. The people wanted to make a great name for themselves. Instead, their rebellion became a reminder of what happens when people reject God's way.

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## 13. Big Lesson

Write these two statements on the board:

**GOD'S WAY**

Obey
Trust
Follow
Listen

**MY WAY**

Disobey
Trust myself
Do what I want
Ignore God's Word

Then ask:

**"Which way does Proverbs 14:12 warn us about?"**

The answer: **Our own way when we choose it instead of God's way.**

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## 14. Object Lesson

### The Tower of Blocks

Use building blocks, cups, or children's toy bricks. Build a small tower.
Tell the children: "Suppose I told you exactly how I wanted you to build this tower."
Give the children an imaginary set of instructions. Then say: "But you decide that your way is better." Change the instructions and build it differently. Ask: **"Would you be obeying me?"**
No.

**Explain:** "The problem isn't that building a tower is bad. The problem is choosing **my way instead of the instructions I was given.**" Then connect it to Babel: **"The people at Babel weren't simply building a tower. They were choosing their way instead of obeying God's command."**

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## 15. Application for Children

Children may never build a tower like Babel, but they face the same choice every day. **God's way or my way?** When Mom says: **"Clean your room."** God wants us to obey our parents.
When Dad says: **"Tell the truth."** God wants us to be truthful. When a teacher says: **"Pay attention."** God wants us to respect authority.

When someone hurts our feelings: **"Get even!"** Our way says one thing. God's Word teaches us another.

## 16. Three Questions to Remember

Teach the children to ask these questions whenever they are making a decision:

**1. What does God's Word say?**

**2. Am I doing this God's way or my way?**

**3. Does my choice obey God?**

These three questions can help us avoid the mistake made at Babel.

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## 17. Review Questions

1. **Who survived the Flood in the ark?**
   Noah, his family, and the animals.
2. **What did God tell Noah and his sons to do?**
   Be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth.
3. **What language did everyone speak?**
   One language.
4. **Where did the people settle?**
   The plain in the land of Shinar.
5. **What did they decide to build?**
   A city and a tower.
6. **Why did they build the tower?**
   They wanted to make a name for themselves and avoid being scattered.
7. **Were they obeying God's command to replenish the earth?**
   No.
8. **What did God do to their language?**
   He confused it.
9. **What happened to the people?**
   God scattered them across the earth.
10. **What was the city called?**
    Babel.
11. **What does Proverbs 14:12 teach us?**
    Our way may seem right, but God's way is the right way.

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## 18. Memory Verse Activity

### "Right Way / Wrong Way"

Have the children stand. Say different statements. If the statement describes **God's way**, they point **up**. If it describes **our sinful way**, they point **down**.

Examples:

- "Tell the truth." — **Up**
- "Lie so you don't get in trouble." — **Down**
- "Obey your parents." — **Up**
- "Do whatever you want." — **Down**
- "Forgive others." — **Up**
- "Get revenge." — **Down**
- "Follow God's Word." — **Up**
- "Do what seems right to you." — **Down**

Then repeat Proverbs 14:12 together.

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## 19. Take-Home Truth

Give each child this simple statement to remember:

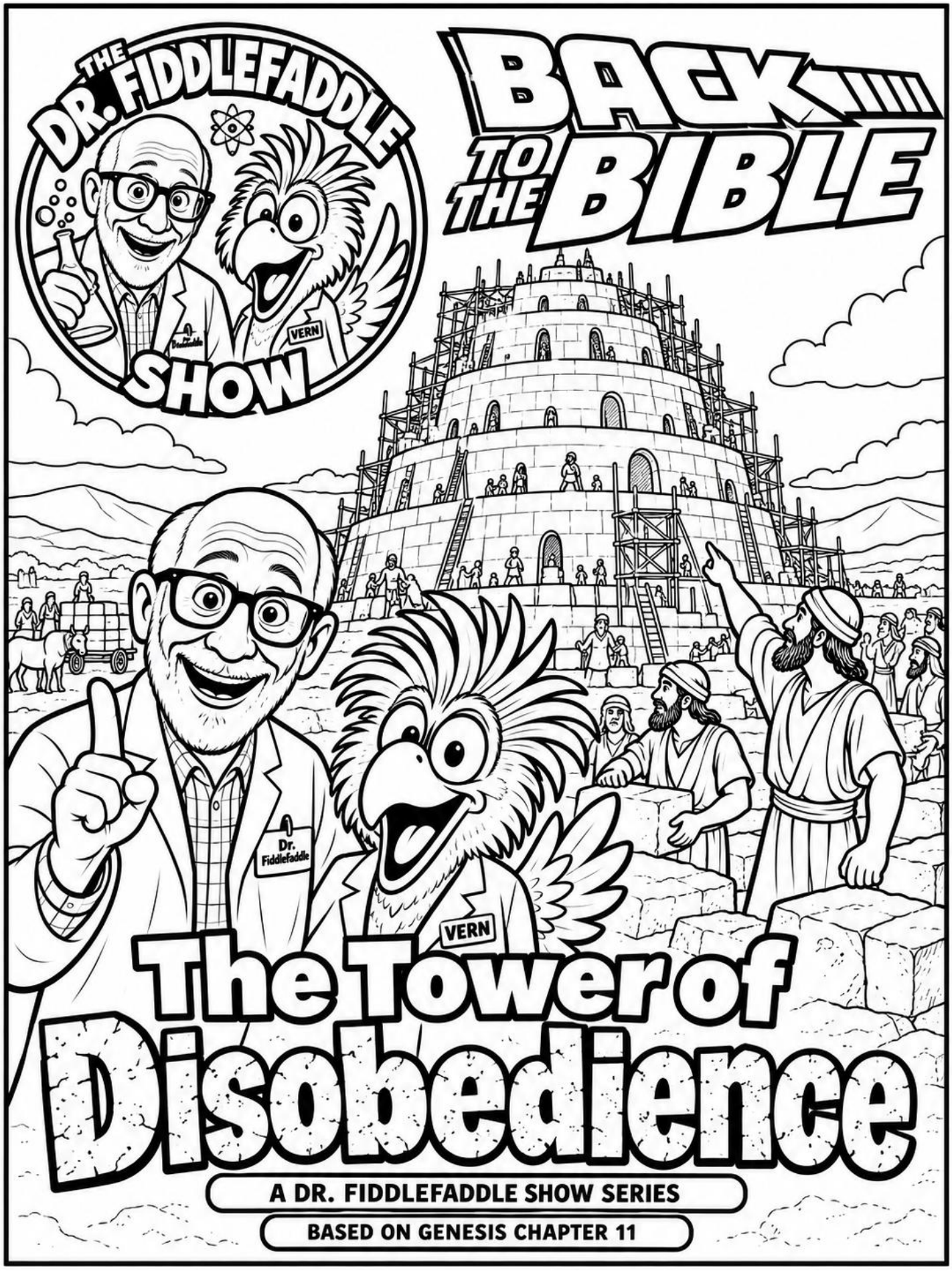
**“When God's way and my way are different, I need to choose God's way.”**

And remind them: **Something can look right, feel right, and sound right—but that doesn't make it right. The question isn't: “What do I want to do?” The question is: “What does God want me to do?”**

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# Teacher's Final Thought

The Tower of Babel is not merely a story about an ancient tower. It is a story about the **human heart**. The people heard God's command, but they chose their own plan. Children need to understand that **disobedience isn't made right just because everyone else is doing it, because the plan seems good, or because we think we know better.** The safest place for a child—and for an adult—is to follow **the Word of God. God's way is always the right way.**


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