

The logo for 'CONNECT' is presented on a piece of torn, light-brown paper. The word 'CONNECT' is written in a bold, black, outlined font. The letter 'O' is replaced by a lightbulb icon with three short lines radiating from its top, symbolizing an idea or connection. Below the main text, the tagline 'QUIRKY TWEENS. BIBLE THEMES.' is written in a smaller, solid black, sans-serif font.

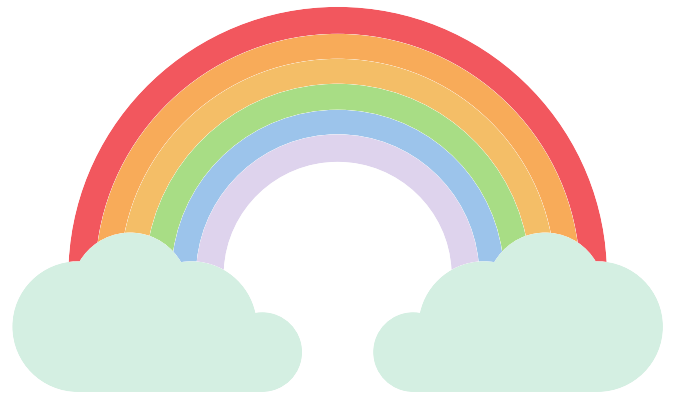
CONNECT
QUIRKY TWEENS. BIBLE THEMES.

Fifth & Sixth Sunday School

October 04 - Flood
October 11 - Tower of Babel
October 18 - Covenant
October 25 - Jacob & Esau

October 4

FLOOD



Overview

In the flood, we encounter God's pain that creation is not the way God intended. God wants to wipe creation clean and start again. God's compassion moves God to spare Noah and his family in the midst of destruction.

The **rainbow** serves as God's reminder not to destroy the world again and symbolizes the covenant God made with us. God is compelled to care for us, God's creation.

Watch It

Before watching the video:

Sometimes people use the phrase "tough love."

What do you think the phrase "tough love" means?

What are some examples of "tough love"?

Watch Sparkhouse Connect: Flood Lesson Video

<https://youtu.be/2TQba0lwN4A>



Scan Me

After watching the video:

What's the difference between "tough love" and being mean?

Is the flood story about tough love or God being mean?

The Flamingo in the video said that "God changes God's mind." What do you think about that idea?

Have you decide to stop being angry with someone else's mistakes? What happened?

Open the Bible

Read Genesis 9: 9-17 & draw a rainbow in the margin of your bible.

Even though God decide to destroy creation and start anew, Noah and his family were spared - and God formed a new covenant with Noah. God showed mercy to humanity because God cares for creation with unending love.

Talk about it

- > When God makes a promise, how do you know God will keep it?

- > How have you experienced God's mercy in your life?

- > Is God's love for you based on your ability to do the right thing? Why or why not?

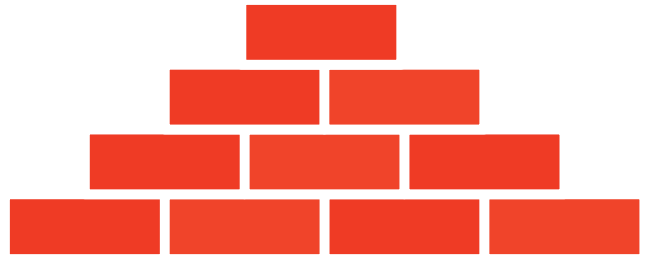
Prayer

The Lord is merciful, always and forever. **AMEN.**

Notes | Questions | Thoughts

October 11

TOWER OF BABEL



Overview

The Tower of Babel gives us an incredible picture of how self-centered and self-reliant people tend to be. The tower builders were trying to make a tower and a name for themselves that would completely leave God out of the picture.

People have used **bricks** to construct buildings for thousands of years. In the Tower of Babel story, the people used bricks to build a tower in honor of the people, not of God.

Watch It

Watch Sparkhouse Connect: Tower of Babel Lesson Video

<https://youtu.be/o2i-Ujg-nRs>



After watching the video:

- Who did you relate to in the video?
- Can you think of a time when you were self-centered? What happened?
- What's the difference between doing something really well and doing something to show off?
- A lot of churches build towers or steeples. In light of the Tower of Babel story, are these good or bad to have? Why?

Open the Bible

Read Genesis 11:1-9

Draw a tower of six bricks below, and label each brick with the one action the people took.

The Tower of Babel gives us an incredible picture of how self-centered and self-reliant people can be. Not only were the builders of the tower trying to lift themselves up literally as they built higher and higher, they were also trying to build up their own importance. They were trying to build a tower and name for themselves—a great and important name for themselves that completely left God out of the picture.

Talk about it

> A lot of churches build big fancy buildings. How can we honor God through the building and use of those buildings?

> What's the difference between doing something really well and doing something to show off?

> Can you think of a time when you were self-centered? What happened?

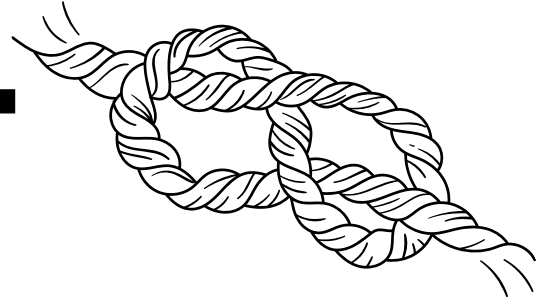
Prayer

Hello God, The Tower of Babel remind us of our self-centeredness. Let's crush our towers of self-centeredness and gather to praise God. **AMEN.**

Notes | Questions | Thoughts

October 18

COVENANT



Overview

We are recipients of God's love but not because we earn it. God initiated an everlasting covenant with humanity. Although Abraham and Sarah were the first to benefit, the covenant wasn't just for them—it was for all people.

The **knot** represents how God is tied to us throughout our lives. A knot reminds us that we are wrapped up in God's love even when we are frayed. Unlike a regular knot, we cannot be untied from God's love.

Watch It

Before watching the video:

Write the definition of the world covenant.

What covenants, promises, pacts, or agreements have you made or must follow?

Watch Sparkhouse Connect: Covenant Lesson Video

<https://youtu.be/tcZGTU4HB5o>



Scan Me

After watching the video:

- How is the covenant between God and humanity different than covenants we make with each other? How is it similar?

- If nothing we do can convince God to break the covenant made with us, then what's the point of working to do good stuff?

Open the Bible

Read Genesis 17:1-8

What do you think Abraham and Sarah thought when God explained the promises of the covenant?

God made a covenant (unbreakable promise) with Abram. That covenant changed his name from Abram to Abraham and reshaped his future. God's covenant with Abraham had three parts. God promised that Abraham would have many descendants, that those descendants would have a place to live, and that God would be their god.

Draw pictures representing the three parts of the covenant

Talk about it

> What do you think about God when you look up at the stars?

> Do you think there is anything we can do to “untie” us from God’s knot? Why or why not?

Prayer

Hello God, we thank you for making a covenant with Abraham and Sarah that also binds us to you today. **AMEN.**

Notes | Questions | Thoughts

October 25

JACOB & ESAU



Overview

If God's blessings were only for people who deserved them, who among us would receive them? God's blessings come through God's grace and are rarely given because someone is worthy.

Jacob was born holding onto his twin brother's **heel**. When Jacob was older, he acted like a heel, a slang word that describes someone who is dishonest. But Jacob's story shows that God makes promises to everyone, even people we wouldn't expect.

Watch It

Watch Sparkhouse Connect: Tower of Babel Lesson Video

<https://youtu.be/Le6p9SEES0E>



After watching the video:

- What sorts of things do you consider unfair? What do you think God's role is in those moments?
- When have you gotten away with something? What did it feel like?
- How do you think Todd will change after "winning" the award?
- Would you rather hang out with Jacob or Esau? Why?

Open the Bible

In this story, Isaac was an old, blind man. Isaac's twin sons, Esau and Jacob, had warred with each other since before they were born. Second-born Jacob weaseled his way into receiving his brother Esau's blessing, and God's covenant continued through another imperfect person.

Read Genesis 27:21-29

God used very imperfect people like Jacob. How can you do God's work even if you are imperfect? Name one of your imperfections and brainstorm ways you can turn it into a blessing to others.

Talk about it

> Who would you rather hang out with, Jacob or Esau? Why?

> God continued the covenant through Jacob, a trickster. What does that say about God?

> How does God surprise you?

Prayer

Hello God, thank you for blessing us, even though we don't deserve it. **AMEN.**

Notes | Questions | Thoughts