

1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Not long after the flood, people got together and decided to make a name for themselves by building a huge tower. God saw their arrogance and where it would take them and intervened mercifully. He confused the languages of the people so that construction on the tower couldn't continue.

This tower was built at a time when everyone spoke one language and became a symbol of human ambition & dreams. The story is also about human pride really.

When everyone spoke the same language – the word Babel meant 'Gateway to God'

But after God scattered the people and they all spoke different languages – it came to mean 'confusion'

Have you heard people use the word 'babble' in our language? It means to talk nonsense..

- What were the people attempting to do?
- Why were they building a tower? (Verse 4)
- What did God do to stop the people?
- Why don't you think God wanted the people to build the tower?
- Can you find out where Shinar is or was- have a go!

Did the tower really exist? <https://youtu.be/kgksU2F18I>

<https://youtu.be/iUotrPxq2pU>

The people had become proud of themselves and all their hard work and it can be the same today.

People can either be workaholics or idle loafers. Many western people are workaholics. They work so much that to achieve as much as they can or earn as much money as possible and so can be in danger of leaving those they love behind; in some ways their work becomes a sort of idol

For example the famous celebrity chef Gordon Ramsey is a self-confessed workaholic. Here are some quotes from his autobiography Humble Pie.

"It's about hard work. It's about success.. I just keep going, moving as far away as possible from where I began. Where am I trying to get to? I wonder . . . Work is who I am, who I want to be. I sometimes think that if I were to stop, I'd cease to exist.' (p.10)"

Gordon Ramsay says, 'I wanted to be the best at whatever I did,' (p. 58) and admits that he is 'such a perfectionist' (p. 252). And so he pushed himself to do better and better than his friends and colleagues.

On the other hand some people end up as idle loafers. The following story illustrates how this mindset can disciple people in Africa. Notice that some Christians can be mugged by consumerist attitudes to work.

In their suburban family home, Tina and Vivian Appiah bump and grind to Jamaican dance-hall music. Behind them is a huge portrait of their elder brother Stephen Appiah, a former football academy pupil who is now a millionaire five times over and Ghana's national captain. The Fenerbahce midfielder recently bought his sisters a beauty parlour and they now have someone run it for them. Their days are spent at leisure, watching television and ordering pizza.

'Stephen is a God in Ghana. Like a superman,' Tina says with a laugh. 'We are proud to be his sisters. His success has made all his family comfortable and made anyone who knows us insanely jealous. We can eat in five-star hotels and travel to Europe; we visited Stephen in Milan and also in Germany. He is now in Turkey and we hope to go soon.' Despite their brother's wealth, the large villa is still threadbare and unkempt. The girls aren't so keen on housework.

'Everyone wants our life,' Vivian says. 'The local women want success for their sons or brothers so they can have this. Were we sad when Stephen left us for the West? Sad? No, we were happy. Our mother had prayed to God for his success. When Stephen was a young boy he was very good at football and we all wanted to help him. My mother sold our television to pay for his boots, and the other children didn't complain because they wanted to help him too. We helped him - so now he can help us.'

God wants us to work, worship, play and rest in ways that bring life and shalom. God wants us to integrate the Sabbath into our lives. **George Cadbury (you can google who he was)** is a superb example of a Christians whose lifestyle was not either work-obsessed (Ramsey) or work-shy (Tina and Vivian).

What is an idol- It is a picture, a person or an object who or that is admired or respected very much. Many religions have idols that are worshipped as well.

- Who are your idols? Why?
- Would you like to meet your idols? Why?
- Might it be a disappointment?
- Do we have a hero that has ever let us down?
- What examples can you give of seeing the real person behind the image?
- What characteristics do you think make a real hero?
- Is there someone perfect we can look up to? Or is there ugliness in everyone?

Look at the following statements and decide if they are about you or God:

- Talking loudly about your good grades so that everyone knows that you're smart.
- Using your intelligence to helping a friend with their math homework.
- Doing your best to help your soccer team win.
- Starting a new business so you can get rich and boss people around
- Starting a new business so you can give people jobs

What things can easily become more important than God? Write your thoughts here:

What do these verses say about idolatry: Write the answers next to the verse.

- Exodus 20:3
- Exodus 20:4
- Psalm 135:15-17
- Habakkuk 2:18
- Isaiah 37:19
- Leviticus 26:1
- Hebrews 13:5
- Jonah 2:8
- 1 Corinthians 10:7
- 1 John 5:21
- Galatians 4:8

The main thing to remember is that we can easily get caught up in concentrating on wanting to be better than anyone else that this can make us proud and forget about other people and about God.

Have a listen to this song about the reading: <https://youtu.be/o4M4AokrSGQ>

Interactive word search about false worship and idolatry:

https://www.christianbiblereference.org/ws_IdolatryFalseWorship_0.htm-

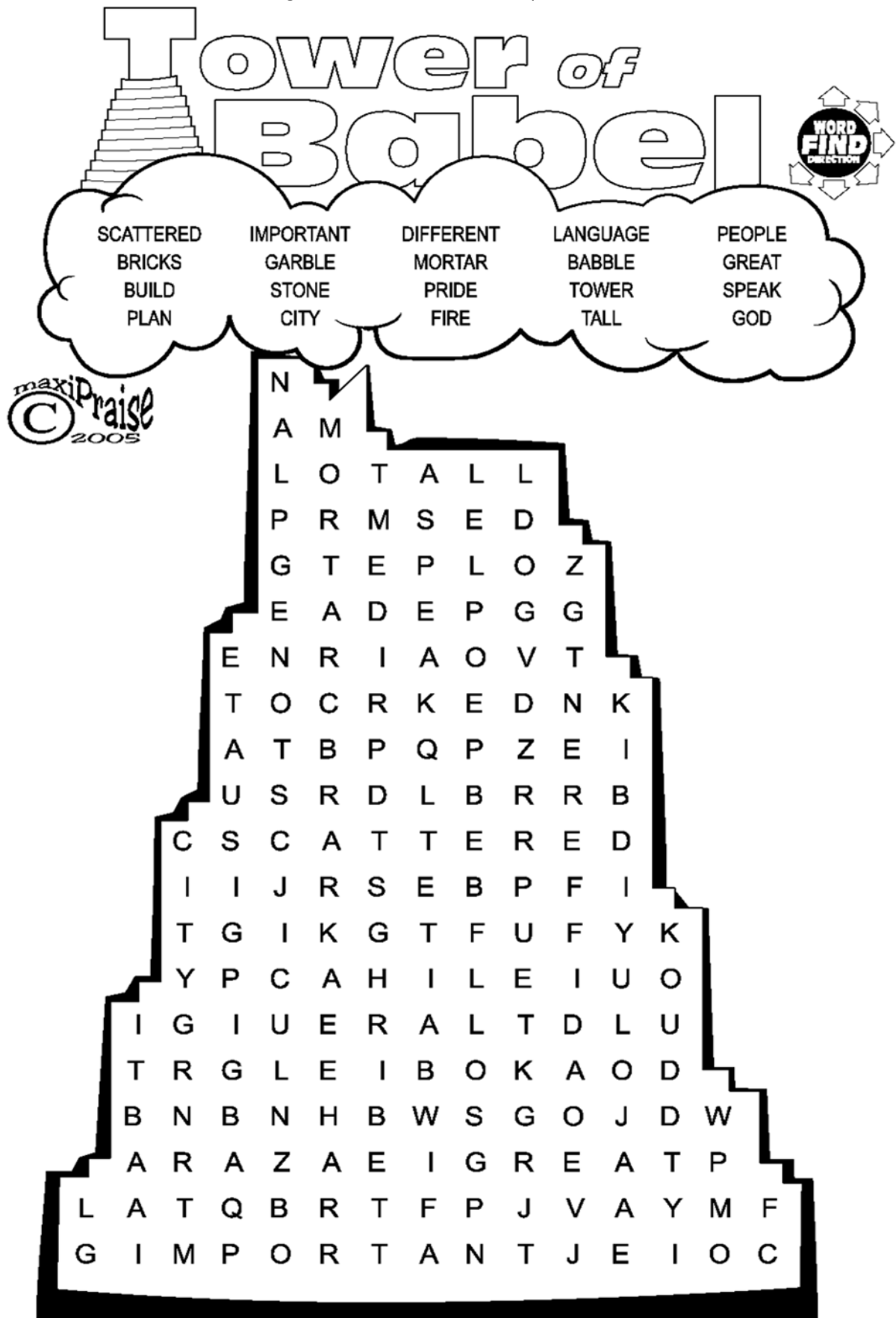
Can you get on and build the tower?

https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/online-jigsaw-puzzle-player.html?puzzle_id=tower-of-babel

Watch out for the cheers at the end 😊

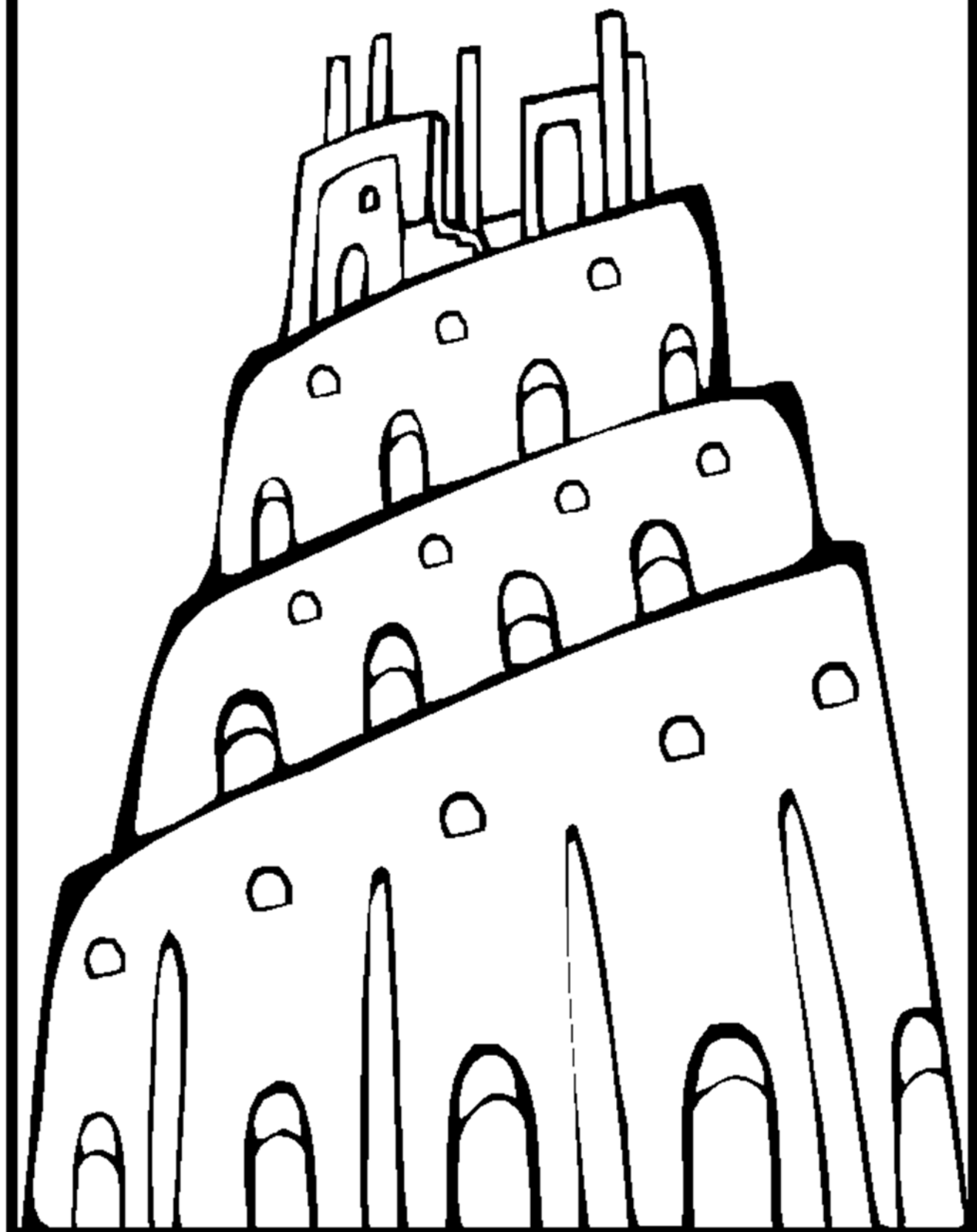
If you are interested in history here is a piece about the history of Babylon-

<https://youtu.be/DY5i3UPXh8k>



Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

from Genesis 11







Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

TOWER OF BABEL

N N D M O U D Z B I T U M E N E A Z O F
V H D O T R S T O N E L O U R K K R J V
R T W R R N F C S H N T O E W V V R H R
E L L T R I O O S K P N Q O R X Z I S W
Y W A A M E Q K W C A L Z X Q B V W V D
I T H R N C K S D L B P R U M I H E V O
O K Z X R G Y A P E O P L E X B E S C A
Y M C I T Y U H I Q T O Y R K L A U D W
G J C E G M Z A Q O P D E N G E V A Z L
T S C A L Z F N G G D M N B S Y E H R M
Y O T E P Z I U A E I U L R W J N P I D
H Z R O H M C P V X E L R F B J S H G Q
W S C A T T E R E D G N C J Q A G U M C
H V A W H N A L S T J E B N L Y B H T K
K A X P D F Y C F M B R I C K M T E U E
M Q P W Q P C G S R M T K V D D O R L A
S P E E C H Q F I S H I N A R O W J P R
R B I M B O Y B O W O X M T J K E T R T
N O F R Y G T T T Z B C N Y T E R Q Z H
E H C O N F U S I O N J V T Q N I Q R B

CONFUSION
SPEECH
CITY
LANGUAGE
EARTH
TORAH

BITUMEN
SHINAR
YHWH
BIBLE
TOWER
STONE

PEOPLE
BABEL
SCATTERED
HEAVENS
BRICK
MORTAR

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2nd August 2020- Who do I worship?- GENESIS 11:1-9