

# WEEK 4

## LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

We can honor God with the things we make.

### BIBLE

**The Tower of Babel:**  
Genesis 11:1-9; Matthew 10:32-33

## LARGE GROUP TIME

It's our final week of *Make It or Break It*! We've learned all about how God makes wonderful things, and even though things break, nothing is beyond repair for God. Today we'll see that God also gives people the creativity to make things, and we need to use that gift wisely!

### WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
  - "The World Needs You" (Westwood Kids Worship feat. Yancy)
  - "Build My Life on You" (Lifeway Worship)
  - "This Could Change Everything" (Worship Together Kids)
  - "All Creatures" (Kings Kaleidoscope)

#### ACTIVITY | Make It or Break It?

- We're back with another game of *Make It or Break It*. It's the game that shows us the "aw yeah!" of success and the "aw no!" of failure.
- We'll watch people doing some crazy stunts, but can you guess whether they're going to *Make It or Break It*? Let's see!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play a few of [these videos](#) that the kids have not seen yet in previous weeks, or film new ones with your volunteer team. You can have the kids vote whether they think the person will make it or break it by raising their hands, running to opposite sides of the room, or any fun way you can think of.*
- It's amazing to see people "make it" and complete their stunts successfully – and this probably attracts a lot of attention. Some get so much attention that they have made it pretty big just by doing stunts like these!

- Making it big can be fun, and if there's anything we've learned so far is that there's someone who we can thank for giving us the awesome abilities that we have – **who do you think that is? Shout it out!** Yes, God! I can't wait to talk about this more today.

### ACTIVITY | Build It Up

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need straws, craft sticks, cotton swabs, tape, modeling dough, marshmallows, and six paper bags. Place each item into their own bag. Group the bags of straws, craft sticks, and cotton swabs together as "building materials." Group the bags of tape, modeling dough, and marshmallows together as "connecting materials." To play, form three teams who will randomly choose one building materials bag and one connecting materials bag. Encourage kids to "think outside the box" as they use their materials to build the tallest freestanding object.
- Check out all the different objects created with the different materials used. **How is yours different from others? If you had the same materials, would you have built the same way?**
- Sure the tallest object was the winner for . . . well, being the tallest . . . but **what do you think the other objects would have won for?**

### QUESTION | What is something you've made that you are proud of?

- Whether they're video game worlds, birdhouses, or LEGO creations, I want to know what you love to build!
- **What is something you've made that you are proud of?**
- **What did you do with it after making it?**

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### SCRIPTURE | Genesis 11:1-9 (The Tower of Babel)

- From the beginning, God has always been about making things good. That's just who God is. Even when things go another direction, bend or break, God is so good that God mends it!
- I wonder what happens when humans forget about God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As you read Genesis 11:1-9, play instrumental music in the background, such as [this option](#). Divide the kids into four or more smaller groups, and give each group a container of building bricks. Invite kids to work together to build a tall tower within their groups using the building bricks. You can also stack cardboard blocks (or other larger stackable objects) as you tell the story.
- [Read Genesis 11:1-4.]
  - At this point in time, all humans lived in one place, and there was only one language that everyone spoke.
  - They decided to build a city with a really, really tall tower in order to make a name for themselves and so that they wouldn't get separated from each other, but there was something not quite right about this . . .
- [Read Genesis 11:5-6.]
  - Not too long before this, God had told the people to move to different places around the world so the earth would be filled with people everywhere.
  - When God saw the tower they were making, God knew that the people would be able to accomplish anything they wanted to do. The problem, though, was that the people's hearts were not in the right place – after all, they were only thinking about themselves and not about what God wanted them to do.
- [Read Genesis 11:7-9. Have kids stop making their towers and place the bricks into a container.]

- God ended up making the people speak different languages so that they couldn't understand each other. That made it really hard to build their tower! City-building and tower-making came to a big halt, and people finally started to move to other places on earth.
- God gave the people all the tools to do something great, and they did . . . but they left God out of the picture. They forgot who gave them their creativity in the first place! They only wanted to build something to make a name for themselves instead of honoring God.
- **How do you think the people could have used the tower to honor God instead?**

### **BIG IDEA | We can honor God with the things we make.**

- Can you help me build today's Big Idea?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *To prepare, stack up nine boxes of different sizes into a tower, one on top of the other. Then use a thick marker to write one word of the Big Idea onto each box so it can be read from top to bottom. During your program, present the word boxes in a scrambled order. Invite kids to come and stack the "blocks" as a tower in the correct order, beginning with the last word on the bottom. Once the stack is complete, everyone can read aloud the Big Idea.*
- The Big Idea is . . . **We can honor God with the things we make.**
- Thank you, Big Idea builders!

### **VIDEO | Make It or Break It, Episode 4**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

### **STORY | Made With Love**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show an item someone made for you, such as a sweater, a quilt, a picture of a room someone decorated for you, or show an item you made for someone else. Share about the person, the item, and what it meant to receive or give it as it relates to God being honored. You can also invite a volunteer to share their experience.*
- Making something with love takes time and intention, which means we do it with purpose . . . not just putting something together meaninglessly.
- **We can honor God with the things we make.** When we make things with love, God's love is reflected in that. Any time that God is on display, it honors God!

### **ACTIVITY | Demolition Derby**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need [large building bricks](#) as well as soft balls or bean bags.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Try making an interactive object lesson here instead, based on Matthew 7:24-27 (The Wise and Foolish Builders). Have one group build their structure on a LEGO base board inside a shallow bin while another builds theirs on a pile of sand in a bin. Then pour water into the containers and let preteens observe which structure stands and which falls over. Honoring God with what we make requires the right foundation — obedience to God.*
- The Tower of Babel might have been a cool structure, but it definitely did not honor God.
- **Can you think of reasons why we might forget to honor God?**
- *[Build a tower with the bricks for each reason.]* Here are a few examples:
  - We only think about ourselves and no one else. We call this, "selfishness."
  - We would rather do what we want to do instead of what God wants us to do. We call this, "disobedience."
  - We think our abilities come from our own hard work. We call this, "pride."

- And this is all what we'd call . . . *not* honoring God.
- [Invite kids to knock down each tower with a soft ball or bean bag during the next talking points.] Let's combat them with the opposite! **What do you think honoring God can look like instead?**
  - We can be selfless and put God first!
  - We can obey by listening to and following what God says.
  - We can be humble and remember that God gave us our awesome abilities.
- Let this help us remember that **we can honor God with what we make.**

### SCRIPTURE | Matthew 10:32-33

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Matthew 10:32-33 with the kids.
- **What do you think it means to acknowledge someone?** It's really just recognizing a person for what they do or what they've done.
- These verses are about acknowledging Jesus.
- Sometimes we can focus way too much on ourselves. We make ourselves stand up tall in order to make others recognize our achievements, but all we end up doing is overshadow God.
- God deserves to be recognized as the one who has given you everything that makes you you!

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### REFLECTION | Build Better Things

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids reflect on today's story silently and think about the prompts you're giving them. Allow kids to share if they'd like.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide images or a list of concrete things that kids can respond to instead of leaving this open-ended. After each example, ask, "Do you think this honors God?" and feel free to review what it means to honor God one more time here.
- In our Bible story today, God halted the Babel building project by confusing all their languages. But God didn't do this to make people stop talking to each other.
- God knew the people had so much to give and even said that nothing that they plan to do will be impossible for them. But they were building the wrong thing. Instead of trying to use their resources to make themselves great, they could have been using them to help one another and build a caring community.
- Take a moment to think about our world today. **What do you think are some things that have been built that probably make God sad?** They don't even have to be buildings or structures you can see. They can be hurtful feelings, attitudes, or things we assume about each other that aren't necessarily true.
- Those are the kinds of things we don't need to keep building. We can work together to build something better in its place, like kindness, acceptance, and love. And that's a wonderful way that **we can honor God with the things we make.**

### RESPONSE | Build With My Life

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#), "My Life" (a Roblox music video) for the kids. Engage kids in discussing things in their life that they can use to build things such as friendships, love and kindness, and trust. Using a dry erase marker, write each word or phrase on the side of large building bricks. Have a pile of bricks in a bucket. Each time a kid gives an example of something in their life they can build with, have them place a brick under the word to show that it is being built up.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** This is an opportunity to empower kids unable to physically build something. Be sure to use examples that are inclusive of diverse abilities.

- There are things we make with our hands, like art, block creations, drawings, or food – or even cities and towers like the people in today’s Bible story. But did you know that there are things that you have in your life that you can build with?
- **What can you use to build friendships?** [Examples could include time, wanting to get to know the other person, and sharing experiences with each other.]
- **What can you use to build love and kindness?** [Examples could include reading up on God’s perspective of love, praying for others, and practice doing kind things.]
- **What can you use to build trust?** [Examples could include telling the truth, doing what you say you’ll do, being there when people need you.]
- **We can honor God with the things we make**, and that includes what we build with our lives and in our hearts.

### MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 3:4

- **“For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.”**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this memory verse activity, you’ll need Jenga blocks, regular-sized or jumbo-sized. To prepare, write or print the memory verse onto a piece of paper. Cut the verse into individual words, then tape each word to the short end of a Jenga block. Set up the Jenga tower by placing the verse words in one direction and in order so it can be read, like [this](#). To play, have kids take turns removing a block, playing the Jenga game as usual. After each turn, have the kids repeat the verse together. It will get harder as the words get all mixed up!
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Using the nuts and bolts from last week’s hack, have preteens unscrew all the nuts from all the bolts. See how quickly they can reassemble them and put the verse in order this week.
- **(Don’t forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Hebrews3-4](http://growcurriculum.org/Hebrews3-4).)**

### PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for giving us the ability to make things that honor you. Help us find ways to show everyone how good you are to us through everything we make, everything we say, and everything we do. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **What did the people decide to build?**
- **Why did they want to build this?**
- **What did God do to stop them? Why did God do this?**
- **Read Matthew 10:32. Can you think of a way you can acknowledge God in front of others?**
- **What do you think it means to honor God?**
- **Why do you think it’s important to honor God?**
- **What is one way you can honor God with the things you make, say, or do this week?**

### ACTIVITY | Art That Honors

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need fuse beads, such as Perler beads or water fuse beads. If using Perler beads, you will also need an iron. If using water fuse beads, you will also need water in a spray bottle and a hairdryer. Set up a designated ironing area or hairdryer area that is off-limits to kids. Have kids use fuse beads to design something that brings them joy. After kids have assembled their creations, have an adult volunteer do the heating! If using water fuse beads, spray their design with water before heating with the hair dryer. (See a worked example [here](#).)*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *For kids with limited fine motor functioning, these beads might be tricky to work with. Consider cutting squares out of different colors of construction paper, covering a paper plate with glue, and having kids stick the squares on to create an 8-bit-like image.*
- The best things to make are the things we make for God. Take your creation home to remind you that **we can honor God with the things we make.**