

# Enrichment: Scripture

## The Tower of Babel and Pentecost

God does amazing work to heal humanity.

### The Tower of Babel

The whole earth had one language. . . . They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly . . . [and] build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves.” . . . And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do. . . . Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language.” . . . So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth. . . . Its name was called Babel” (Genesis 11:1, 3–4, 6–9).

**What was the sin of those building the tower?** The people united to “make a name for [themselves]” (11:4). They united to glorify *themselves* rather than God. So, to keep them from uniting further in sin, God scattered them over all the earth and confused their language.

### Pentecost

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles as “tongues as of fire” (Acts 2:3). They then “began to speak in other tongues” (2:4). On Pentecost, people from all over the known world with different languages were gathered in Jerusalem. Yet all of them were able to understand the Apostles (see 2:11).

We see at Pentecost God’s work to *reverse* the effects of the Tower of Babel!

| Babel   | Pentecost   |
|---|---|
| The people used fire for bricks to build city of man.           | Holy Spirit (symbolized by tongues of flame) sent to build God’s kingdom. |
| God “came down” upon the people.                                | God, the Holy Spirit, came down upon the Apostles.                        |
| God confused the people’s language.                             | The people gathered could understand the Apostles.                        |
| People united to “make a name for [themselves]” (Genesis 11:4). | People united in proclaiming the “mighty works of God” (Acts 2:11).       |
| People were scattered.  | People were united in the Church through Baptism.                         |

### Journal Reflection

**How has God worked in your life to protect you from sin?** Write your answer on the journal page. Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.