

I Think I'll Just Hum...



Sometimes I prepare what I think is a great class and yet my students struggle to think past the surface level of the Bible story. But sometimes, often when I least expect it, the kids run ahead of the teacher and want to go deeper.

Instead of just appreciating the facts or even the drama of the story they may ask questions about the characters or wonder why the characters did what they did. They might want to discuss motivations and causes. They may even ponder over what God was up to or discuss how he interacted with the characters.

Sometimes the Biblical truths become personal. They dig deep into a child's heart and convict them to act upon these truths.

And then sometimes, like this past Sunday, a child takes one more step and actually makes a plan. It is at times like these that a teacher knows she has truly passed on the message.

Earlier in the week a young woman and I had prepared a lesson together on the [Tower of Babel](#) using the [Lesson Template](#). This time I stood back and she did the teaching.

- First she had the letters of the words “proud” and “humble” written on cards. She mixed the letters up and showed how to unscramble them to form the words.
- Then she drew the face of a girl on a balloon and spoke as if she was the girl on the balloon. She began “bragging” about everything from her good looks to her amazing skills at sports. Every time she bragged she would blow some more hot air into the balloon. The bragging continued until the balloon finally popped.
- Using a simple flip chart she then told the story of how people began building a tower thinking only of how they would make a great name for themselves. God was not pleased and mixed up their language so it must have sounded like they were just babbling to one another. Not being able to communicate led to the people going their separate ways.
- After this, two towers were built in class...

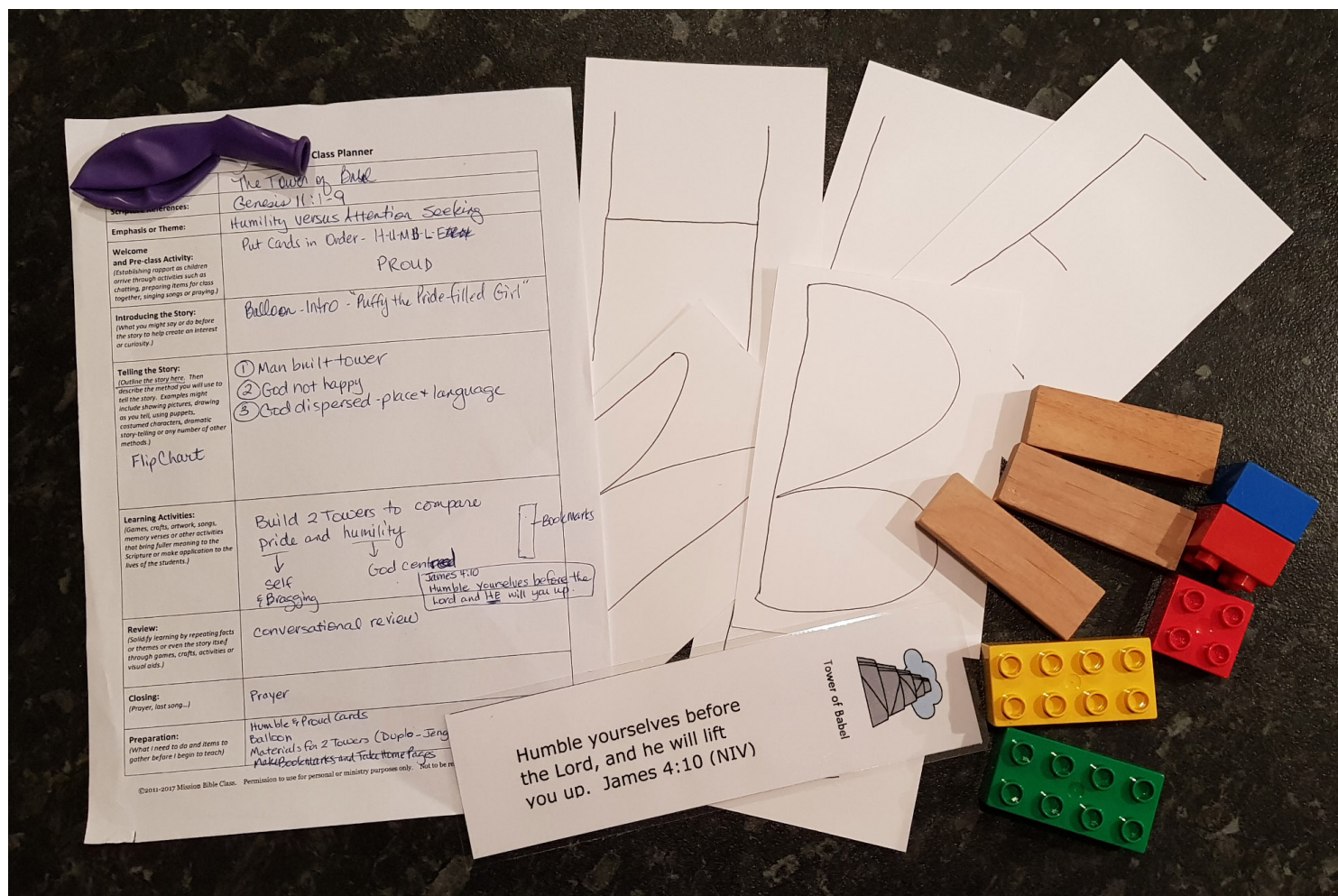
- One was built out of large Lego blocks. As each block was stacked the young teacher talked about how great God was.
- The other tower was built from wooden Jenga blocks. As we had planned, I built this tower making a point to blatantly brag about my own abilities at each level. As expected, my tower crashed and the first one held.
- As we gathered back together we looked once more at the word “humble” and talked about what it meant.

One boy had taken in the facts and had been convicted that he should be humble. But now, he was ready to put it into ACTION. At his own instigation he devised a way to go deeper!

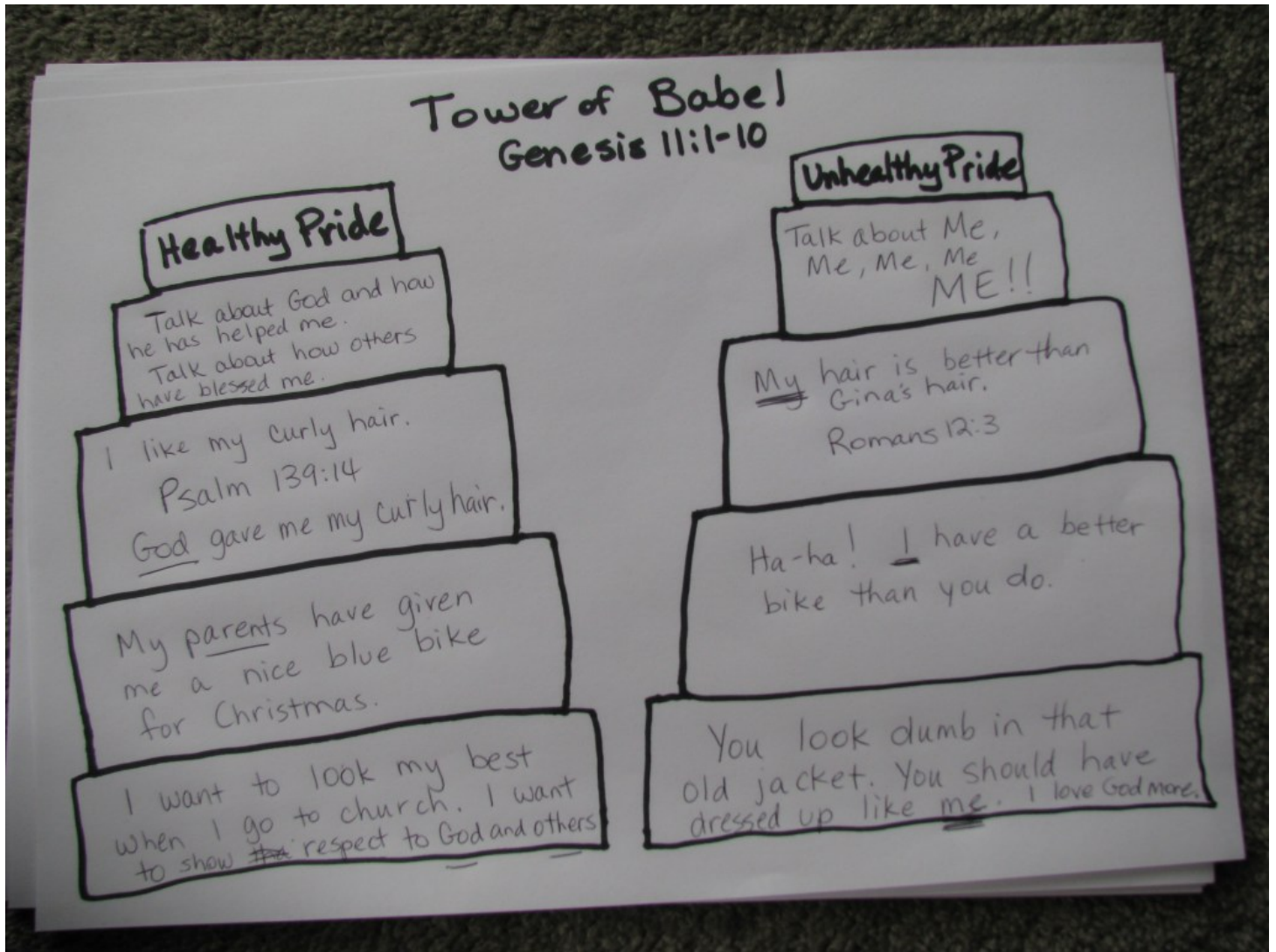
And here is a seven year old boy's simple plan of action...

“Every time I start being too proud I think I’m going to just hum.” In answer to the perplexed expressions on our faces he went on to explain, “I’m going to hum because that will help me stop being proud and remember to be HUM-ble.”

Yes, that little boy really understood the message. He has a plan of action and now, so do I. Next time I start thinking that teachers have all the answers...I’m going to start humming.



Drawing Contrasts as an Application Activity



Here's a really simple idea to use in any Bible Class and you only need a pencil and piece of paper. Children will compare two thoughts and apply the scripture you have been studying.

[Click here for full instructions.](#)

- This simple teaching idea can be adapted to any story, age group or teaching situation.
- In the video instructions I used the stories [The Tower of Babel](#) and [The First Church](#) as examples.

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