

Read Genesis 11.1-9

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

How good are you at speaking other languages? People in Britain are often criticised for not trying to learn other languages. When you go on holiday to another country, do you try to speak the language of that country, or do you just hope that everyone will understand English? Do you think it would be easier for people to get on with each other if they all spoke the same language?



Today's reading from the book of Genesis is the story of the Tower of Babel. It describes a time when everyone on earth spoke the same language. They could all understand each other. They planned together to build a tall tower that would reach to heaven. The idea was to show everyone else how important they were. They were building it for their own glory. They wanted to be like God.

God was not pleased and punished them for their arrogance and pride. God destroyed the tower and scattered the people into separate groups, each speaking a different language.

The world is made up of people from a variety of cultures and with many different languages. This is a blessing as well as a challenge. In what ways is it a good thing that there are many different cultures? What are the challenges? How can we overcome these challenges and learn to understand people better?

God made human beings in his image. God wants us to be one family even though we are all individuals – the family of God. We have to make an effort to understand people from other cultures. Instead of building a tall tower we should all work together and live together to show how great God is.

Activities

- How many ways can you say "Hello" and "God loves you"? Do some research on the internet and write out these phrases in as many languages as you can. Use your list to pray for people from around the world.

Prayer

Ever-loving God,
we thank you that we are all your family,
united by our friend and saviour – your son, Jesus.
We pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire and lead us
to work together with people from all cultures and backgrounds
to build your kingdom here on earth.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen