

# THE TOWER OF BABEL

Retold by Peggi Glaser

A long time passed after Noah, his family, and the animals left the ark. Noah's children had children, and their children had children. The people stayed together while wandering across the land.

All the people understood each other because they spoke the same language. They were one big family. As they traveled east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar. They liked it and decided to stay.

One said, "Let us make bricks and build a village." So they built a fine village. Most people were happy in the village. They planted crops, fished in the river and raised their families. But some people said, "This is only a village. Let us build a fine city."

So they built a beautiful city. Everyone felt very proud of the city. In the marketplace there was much bargaining and trading. In the homes there were courtyards with peaceful lotus ponds. Most people were content. Yet some still argued, "We can be greater than this!"

Those who were not happy with just the city called to others, "Come, let us build a tower with its top in heaven, and let us become famous." They started to build the tower right in the center of the city.

Soon everyone was working on the tower during the day, and at night, too! As it rose higher and higher into the sky, everyone felt prouder and prouder.

"We must be great to build such a great tower," they exclaimed to each other. "People who can build a tower like this must be the greatest in heaven or on earth."

Higher and higher went the tower. Higher and higher went the people's pride. Every man and woman worked only for the tower. It made each person feel full of power.

"We are greater than anything! We can do anything!" they cried.

The marketplace was silent. The crops rotted in the fields. The cows were not milked. The children cried alone in their beds. The only thing that mattered was the tower and the bricks to build the tower.

The Lord saw the tower the people were building. "They have forgotten their homes. They have forgotten their children. They have forgotten the Lord, their God.

"They are one people with one language who used to live happily like one big family. But now they are building this tower and think they can have power over heaven and earth. I will confuse their language so they cannot understand each other."

Now there was confusion on the tower.

"Give me some mortar," one man asked another man.

"I don't have any water," was his reply.

"The wall is too tall," called another worker.

"I am not going to fall," his friend said angrily.

"Those bricks are too thick," yelled a bricklayer.

"I am definitely not sick," cried his assistant.

All the people had to stop working because they could not understand each other. The Lord scattered the people all over the earth. The tower was never finished and became known as the Tower of Babel because the Lord made a babble of everyone's language.

**Source Materials:** *The Tower of Babel*, adapted and illustrated by Marilyn Hirsh. © 1981 by Marilyn Hirsh. Reprinted by permission of Holiday House, Inc. *The Rabbi's Bible*, by Solomon, Simon, and Morrison D. Bial

## **DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING “THE TOWER OF BABEL” STORY PROPS**

1. Cut the top and bottom of the tower patterns along the outside solid line.
2. Butt the top and bottom of the tower together. Tape together on the back
3. Cut the people out.
4. Cut out the bubbles which contain the sayings.
5. Laminate the people, bubbles and tower.
6. Place a ruler along each dotted folding line on the tower. Draw a pencil line over the dotted line. This impression will help make a neat fold. Fold all the dotted lines to the back. Also fold in the same way the line formed by the two tower pieces butted together.
7. Cut 15 to 18 brick sized pieces of sandpaper. Attach them to the tower with contact cement or double-sided tape. Distribute them randomly. They provide texture.
8. Cut the shorter narrow magnetic strip into six pieces the size of the bricks marked “A” on the tower. Attach them in the spaces marked “A”. Cut the medium magnetic strip into six pieces the size of the bricks marked “B”. Attach them in the spaces marked “B”.
9. Cut the longer narrow magnetic strip into twelve 1/2 inch pieces. Attach the pieces to the back of the people and bubbles. The pieces should be placed horizontally.

## **DIRECTIONS FOR TELLING “THE TOWER OF BABEL” STORY**

1. Use the tower as the story is being told, or as a reinforcement afterwards.
2. Starting at the top, bend the folds back consecutively until only the bottom level of the tower shows.
3. As the story is told about the tower rising higher and higher, unfold the tower to its full height.
4. After the tower is unfolded completely, attach two people at a time. The people are placed on opposite sides facing each other. Begin at the bottom level. Place bubbles over their heads in the following order:

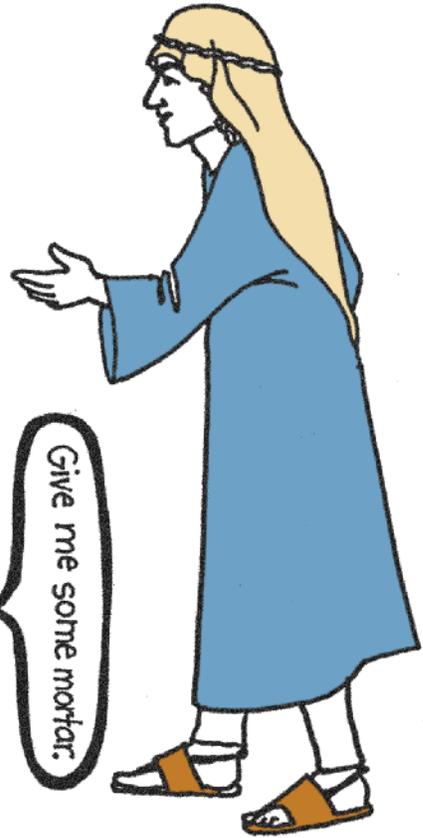
Bottom:	Give me some mortar.	I don't have any water.
Middle:	The wall is too tall.	I am not going to fall.
Top:	Those bricks are too thick.	I definitely am not sick.



I am going to fall.

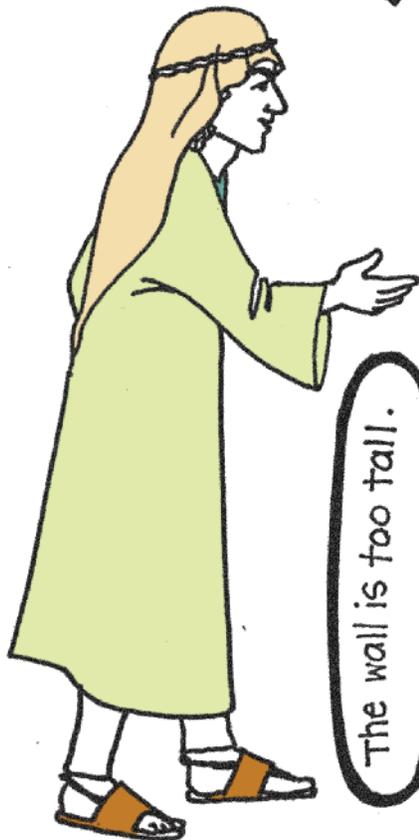


Give me some mortar.



I definitely am not sick.

Those bricks are too thick.



The wall is too tall.



I don't have any water.

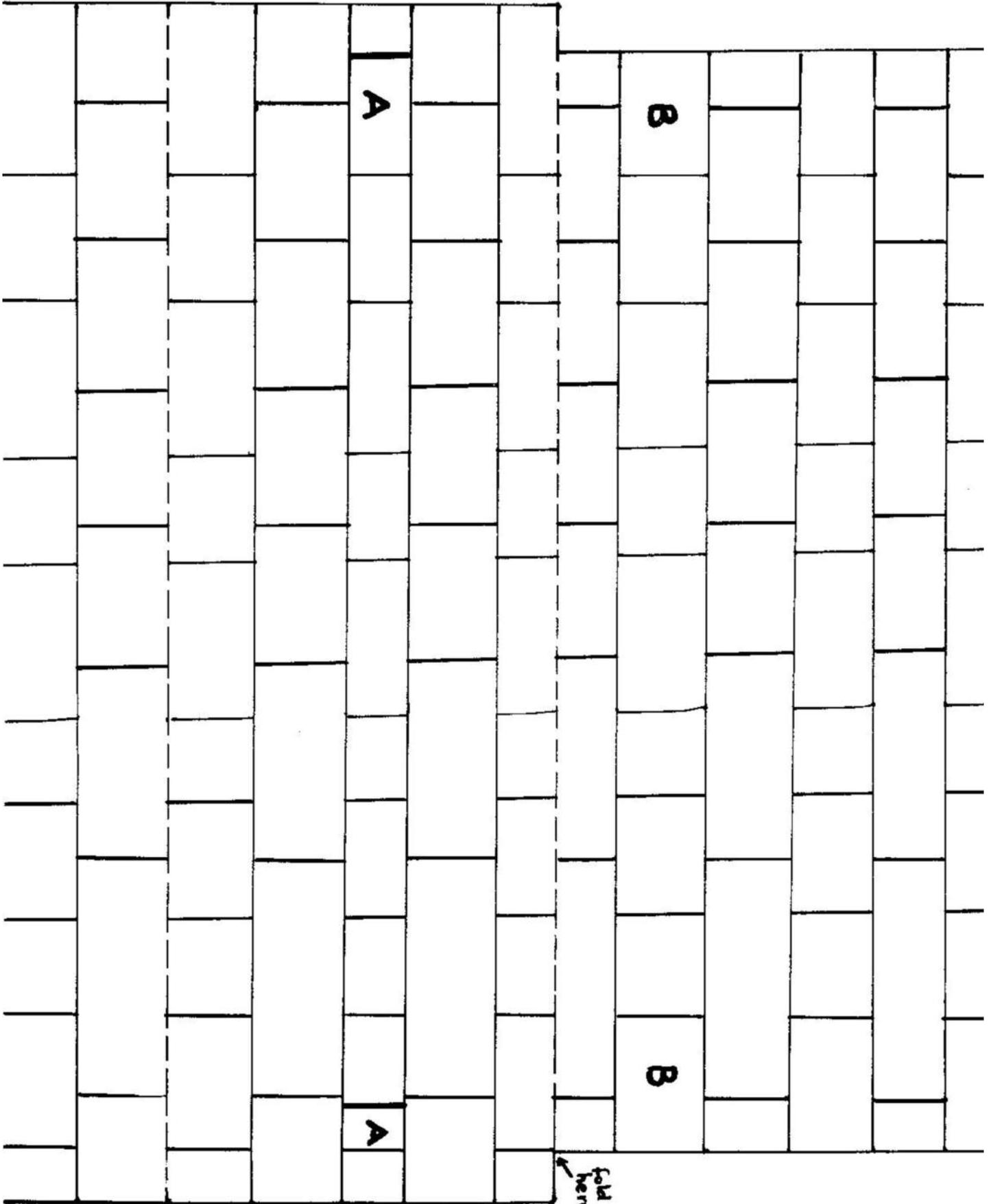


People and Bubbles



Cutting edge

Bottom



fold here ↙

fold here ↙