



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: Stalled

Suggested Week of Use: January 28, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 11:1-9

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### News Story Summary

The cruise ship industry is always innovating, and one element of the ongoing competition between the top lines is building bigger boats. Royal Caribbean currently owns the six largest cruise ships in the world, including its *Wonder of the Seas*<sup>®</sup>, which had been the biggest until recently. In the summer of 2023, though, the company revealed plans for something even bigger; and on January 10, the *Icon of the Seas*<sup>SM</sup> arrived in the port of Miami as the new largest cruise ship on the planet. It will officially debut when it sets sail on January 27.

According to Royal Caribbean, the ship has twenty decks, 2,350 crew members, and 2,805 staterooms that can house 5,610 guests. It has seven swimming pools and nine whirlpools, plus six water slides. The ship boasts eight different themed “neighborhoods” including an indoor “Central Park” area in the middle of five decks. As for its dimensions, the ship is nearly 1,200 feet long (roughly equal to four football fields) and 159 feet wide. It has the world’s largest waterpark at sea, forty options for dining and entertainment, and a ropes course that runs 154 feet (about 15 stories) above the ocean.

For more about this story, search “Icon of the Seas.”

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, ask adults if they have ever been on a cruise. Encourage those who have to share what cruise lines they have used and where they have gone. Ask: *What do you like best about cruising?* Share the information about the new *Icon of the Seas*<sup>SM</sup> cruise ship. Ask: *Why do cruise lines want to have the largest ship?* Point out that it’s human nature to want the biggest and best experiences in life. Emphasize that this is fine as long as we keep things in proper perspective. Share that today’s session focuses on a group of people who lost perspective and on how God had to act to move them in the right direction.

### Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind adults of the *Icon of the Seas*<sup>SM</sup>. Discuss some advantages and disadvantages of such a huge cruise ship. Ask: *In what ways could the story of this ship relate to the story of Babel?* Discuss responses. Emphasize again that striving to be the best is fine as long as it doesn’t distract us from what really matters in life. Refer back to the summary statement for this session: *God expects His will and desires to be carried out.* Close in prayer, asking God to help every adult to focus on obedience to His plans first and foremost.