

Home Groups Questions

November 6, 2011

Lessons from the Tower of Babel Genesis 11:1-9

Leaders: The questions below are inspired by Sunday morning's sermon. Please take time to review the questions and use them as a tool for discussion in your Home Group. It may be that we have provided more questions than you will have time to answer. If this is the case, please adjust or adapt the questions to fit your group.

Icebreakers/ Conversation Starters – These are random questions designed to create community and encourage conversation.

1. If you could speak any language (other than English) fluently, which would you choose and why?
2. Have you ever been in a situation where you couldn't communicate important information because of a language barrier?
3. In your opinion, what is the most impressive man-made building or structure in the world? Have you seen it in person?
4. What is the biggest or best thing you have ever built with your own hands?

Turn to Genesis 11:1-9 and read it.

What stands out most to you about the passage or message from this morning?

I. Unanimity doesn't make it right (11:1)

Genesis 11:1 “¹ Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.”

1. Unity is normally viewed as a positive thing, but when can unity be negative? Can you think of a current example of this?
2. How is unity “in Christ” different from the unity at Babel?

II. Invention can produce false confidence. (11:3)

Genesis 11:3 - “³ They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.”

1. Confidence is an important part of relationships and success, but at what point does confidence and self-sufficiency become dangerous to our faith?
2. In light of God's early history with mankind, why would the Lord be concerned that “nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them”(v 6)?

III. When is ambition disobedience. (11:4)

Genesis 11:4 - ⁴ They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

1. How do we determine if our ambition is from self or from God? In what ways can we make sure that our goals are directed to the Glory of God and not self (at work, at home, at church, etc)?
2. In our society we are tempted to rely on our own power to get things done. So, how can we live in such a way that we are radically dependent on and desperate for the power of God?

IV. God is the ultimate building inspector. (11:5)

Genesis 11:5 - ⁵ The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

1. What was God's primary concern in this building project? Is He still concerned about these things in our lives today? Explain.
2. When God looks at the work of our hands, is he more interested in the end product or the process? Explain.
3. If God is the ultimate building inspector, then how do we know if we are passing or failing? What are the ways to measure this?

V. God always has the right to intervene. (11:9)

Genesis 11:9 - ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

1. Has God ever scattered your plans? Can you think of a specific example? How did you react?
2. God chose to intervene in the building of the tower. However, we know that sometimes it seems God chooses not to intervene. Why does God allow worldly success for those who don't follow His ways?
3. Is there an area in your life right now that seems like "Babel" or that is filled with confusion?

Prayer Time

Calendar:

Nov 13 – Home Groups, Nov 20 – Harvest Dinner, Nov 27 – No Home Groups

