

## THE TOWER OF BABEL

*When man exalts himself, God will humble him.*



THE STORY: GENESIS 10:1-32

MONDAY

**Prior to Babel, all the persons of the earth trace their origin to Noah**

Prior to Babel, all the persons of the earth trace their origin to Noah. When you read about Egypt and Canaan in the Bible, did you realize that these countries were named after Noah's grandsons (Genesis 10:6)? In this chapter, also notice some of the other names which are repeated again when God brought Abraham's descendants into the land of Canaan. The origins of the Canaanite tribes like the Amorites, Jebusites, and Gergashites all trace their history back to Noah as recorded in Genesis 10.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why do you think God included detailed lists of persons in the Bible? *(There may be many reasons but one important reason is that it takes what could be interpreted as mythology and firmly plants it in the genre of history. Noah and the flood is not a folk tale signs of the flood that abound today. It is likely that when the flood waters receded, great canyons were cut into the earth (like the Grand Canyon) and huge fossil beds were created of all the dead animals (Yes. God, not evolution over millions of years, can take credit for dinosaur bones.). In addition, the water of the earth remained in the clouds and in each rainbow to remind us of God's promise.)*

**PRAY:**

Thank God for making his Word so rich with detail. Ask him to help you follow his Word.



THE STORY: GENESIS 11:1-9

TUESDAY

**The sinfulness of man will cause him to exalt himself over God.**

The sinfulness of man will cause him to exalt himself over God. Notice how the ambitions of men in building the tower neither included God nor gave him glory. The pursuits of man, apart from the saving grace of God, will always lead man to exalt himself and will never lead to a discovery of God. Apart from God, man is hopelessly lost. Even a noble pursuit such as building a tower became idolatrous and entangled in self-exaltation as we read in this passage.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What went wrong in this story? *(The people stopped following and exalting God and began to think very highly of themselves.)*

In what areas of our lives are we like the people of Babel? *(Draw out your family. Ask them to think of where they struggle with pride which is a desire to control or to do/have things your own way.)*

**PRAY:**

Confess your similarity to the people of Babel to God and ask that he help you to live for him. Pray that the Lord would help you to be like Noah, who believed and exalted God, and not like the people of Babel who wanted to make a name for themselves.



THE STORY: REVELATION 7:9-10

WEDNESDAY

## Where is Jesus?

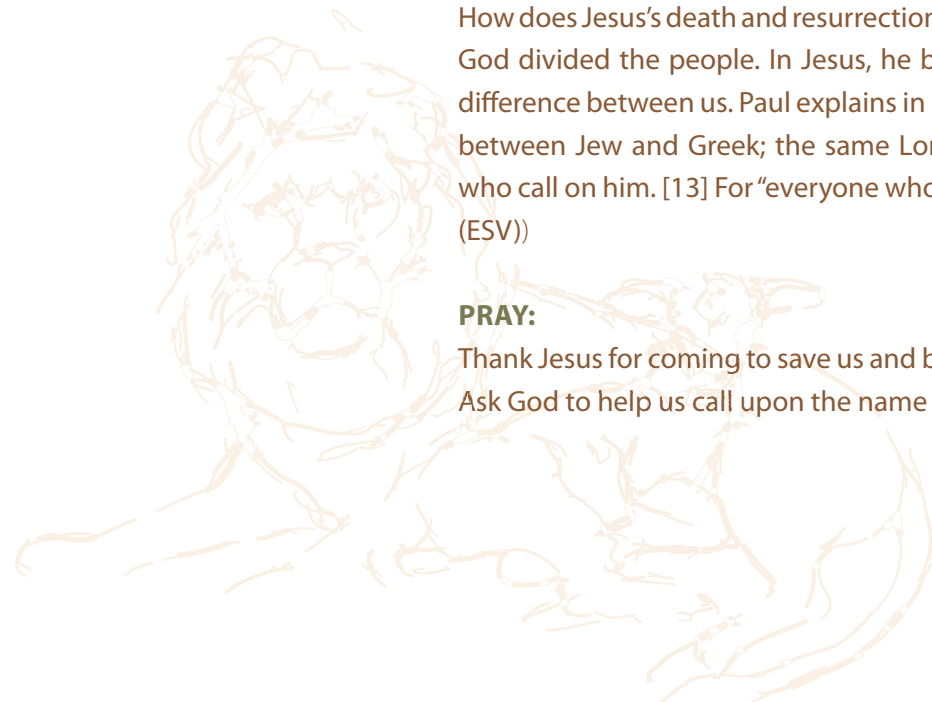
God scattered the sinful people of the earth by confusing their language. Ever since, people have been divided from each other into separate tribes and tongues and nations. Jesus's redeeming sacrifice tears down the dividing wall between people and God, and also the dividing wall between people and people. All those who believe in Christ are, right now, citizens of one holy nation. Persons of all tongues and tribes will worship him together in heaven when the curse of our sin is broken and our unity in him is made complete. The book of Revelation tells us that the multitude of believers in heaven will cry out together with the same words. Now we speak in hundreds of languages; in heaven we will all sing with one voice.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How does Jesus's death and resurrection reverse the curse of God on Babel? (In Babel, God divided the people. In Jesus, he brings people together. In Christ there is no difference between us. Paul explains in Romans 10:12-13, "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. [13] For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (ESV))

**PRAY:**

Thank Jesus for coming to save us and break down the barriers of the curse of Babel. Ask God to help us call upon the name of the Lord so that we might be saved.





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## God exalts the humble, but opposes the proud.

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God exalts the humble, but opposes the proud. God is fully aware of the deeds of man. He makes it clear in his Word that he will frustrate the labors of the proud man but will lift up the lives of the humble. From the time of Babel onward, God's judgment often involved scattering those who disobeyed and gathering to himself those who followed his Word.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

When the people of Babel were building their tower, did they realize they were sinning against the Lord? *(No, because of their pride they didn't know. Sin is so deceptive that we can be totally blind to it.)*

Since sin is so deceptive, how can we know when we are drifting away from God so that we can turn back to God and avoid judgment? *(We need the help of others around us to speak God's word to us when they see us drifting. We should ask one another for correction and give others an open invitation to speak into our lives. The sin in our lives is usually obvious to those around us. Take time to ask others to help you by bringing you correction when they see you sinning.)*

### PRAY:

Ask God to help you confess your sins, seek the input of others, and learn to value their correction and pursue it.





## On the road to Emmaus.

In the book of Revelation, John reports a group of saints who have come out of the great tribulation with white robes. He said the robes were washed “white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:14). Isaiah 1:8 also refers to this washing. The blood of Christ washes away the stain of our sin, which is represented by the robes being made white or pure.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the passage say are red, like crimson and like scarlet? *(The passage is referring to our sins.)*

What can make our scarlet sins white as snow? *(The passage does not tell us specifically what can make them white as snow but it is the Lord speaking in the passage and he says definitively that “they shall be as white as snow.” God was confident that the sins of man could be wiped clean. The reason for God’s confidence in being able to declare this is because of the future sacrifice made by Jesus. The Father knew his son would die; the Father knew that the penalty for sin would be paid; and the Father knew that the stain of sin would be wiped away. This passage brought hope to the people of Israel because of the future declared work of Christ.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for making a way to wash us of our sins. Ask God for the grace to want him to wash our sins away.

