

# THE WHOLE STORY

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From Genesis to Revelation

## ***Introduction:***

**Genesis 11:1-9**

Genesis 10 and 11 are basically one long genealogy connecting Noah to Abraham with two short intermissions, 10:8-12 and 11:1-9. The second of these parentheses is what we will be studying this week in small groups.

God “rebooted” creation with Noah, who had three sons. One of those sons, Ham, had a grandson named Nimrod who was a mighty warrior who created the first world empire of which Babylon was its first and greatest city. So the take away this week is for all of us to become as strong as possible and make awesome stuff...no, not really!

Even though what Nimrod built may seem impressive on the outside, every intention of it was against God’s plan for humanity.

### ***This Week’s Main Focus:***

***We will either honor God with the work of our lives or,  
We will seek to honor ourselves - bringing God’s judgment.***

Man’s sin in chapter 11 mirrors the sinful desires we still experience today. They wanted a city to settle in for security and comfort when God clearly told them to spread out and subdue the Earth. They wanted a great name for themselves so they might find their identity in achievement and legacy. Finally they wanted a tower to build toward the heavens and reach God through false religion. The picture of sin culminates in Genesis 11 in this very way, humanity no longer even recognizes their rebellion against God but attempts to declare their own greatness and provide their own way to heaven. We try to attain salvation by reaching out to God with a declaration of our greatness, but it is only when we realize our neediness that we can see God reaching down for us.

God’s confusion of language comes full circle in Acts 2. The writer of Acts specifically mentions that there are people in attendance from every region of the scattering in Genesis 11. As the apostles share the gospel, God un-confuses the languages to show people that through Jesus our sin can be healed, and that he has “come down” again, but this time to dwell with his people as they are sent out not to scatter them in judgment. Just as God walked with man in the garden the Holy Spirit now walks with us. Just as both Adam and the descendants of Noah were sent out to multiply and subdue the Earth Jesus sends us out to multiply disciples and spread the Gospel.

**God always pushes his people to look outward, to multiply, toward sending.**  
Sinful man always looks inward, toward building for his security and his glory.

## ***Group Introduction Question:***

1) What has been your biggest “take away” from reading the Bible so far this year?

**Bible Study Questions:     Read Genesis 11:1-9**

2) What reasons do the people give for building the tower in verse 4? How do these reasons given by the Babylonians go against what God has commanded humans to do?

3) What are God's reasons for stopping the building of the tower in verse 6?

4) The drama of the chapter centers on God *coming down to see* the city and the tower in verse 5. Why is that significant?

5) God could have simply destroyed the city and tower. Why did he choose to confuse the people's language instead?

**Group Application Questions:**

7) Have you ever built a "tower" or structure for yourself only to have it shattered by God? What happened?

8) God eventually unifies believers of all nations and all tongues in the gospel. How does your life testify to the unity that God has given believers? How do you want to use your life to help build God's temple (the church)?

**Prayer:**

Have 1-2 people in your group pray through each piece of the A.C.T.S. prayer acronym.

- **Adoration** - reflect on the character of God in this week's passage. Let that revelation lead you to worship and adore God.
- **Confess** - the Word of God exposes and uncovers sin. Respond to that conviction by agreeing with what God has said about your sin.
- **Thanksgiving** - where do you see God working? Thank God for his faithfulness in your life and the lives of others.
- **Supplication** - God's word helps us understand his purposes and his plans. Ask God to give you the desires of his heart as you pray for your needs and the needs of others.