

Origins #5
Let's Build a Tower
February 11, 2024

- **Do you speak another language?**

**We hear the Bible differently and beautifully when it is read in a community of people.
As a group, read Genesis 11:1-9.**

**What are some observations you noticed from the text?
What was something from the message that you want to remember?**

We are making our way through the story of Genesis 1-11. The Bible is the story of God's mission with his people, Israel, and the church. This is pre-history, it is universal. How we got here and why God is on mission. Starting with creation, God creates a dynamic and flourishing cosmos and then things begin to unravel with multiple events spiraling downward.

- *Adam and Eve push God out and become consumers, not cultivators,*
- *Their kids turn on each other, and Cain kills Abel.*
- *All of humanity turns on itself in the Noah/flood story.*

God is constantly holding two things in tension...humanity and creation and no matter how far down humanity spirals He will not abandon us, but at the same time, He refuses to give up on His intent for creation.

Genesis 10:32

"These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these, the nation's spread out over the earth after the flood."

- **Why is it important to know the history of Noah's descendants?**

Genesis 11:1-4

"Now **the whole world had one language** and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, **let us build ourselves a city, "with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."**

Genesis 11:5-9

"But **the Lord came down to see the city and the tower** the people were building. The Lord said, 'If as one people speaking the same language, they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.' So, the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. **From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.**"

- **Why do they build this tower?**
- **Why is such unity wrong?**
- **Why would confusing their language fulfill the first great commission?**
- **What do you learn about judgment and mercy?**
- **How do you have unity among diversity?**

Acts 2:5-6

"Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because **each one heard their own language being spoken.**"

Ephesians 2:13-15

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.** His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace."

- **How does Jesus undo what the tower of Babel began?**
- **Do you trust God to make the world right?**
- **How do you live like it?**

PRAY FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR GROUP

How does this message lead you to pray?

PRAY FOR OUR OUTREACH PARTNERS

Pray for FCCHB's English Club, a group that meets at FCC to help English language learners expand their conversational skills. Pray for more folks to feel encouraged to come and for the community that is building amongst current participants.