

Genesis 10 – 11
Tower of Babel
Deconstructing the towers of pride and fear in your life

Opening Question: What is one of your greatest fears?

Remind them: This week we read Genesis 10 – 11.

Ask them: How many of you read it before service? Did you find any of it confusing?

Tell them: If you'd like to dive deeper into this passage be sure to download the Bible study we have online at achurchforyou.com/questions. It really digs into the Table of Nations this week and helps explain some of the difficult parts of this passage. This week Pastor Michael really focused on The Tower of Babel.

Ask them: What did you think about this week?

Tell them: Well, Pastor Michael said that The Tower of Babel is a lesson in the foolishness of pride, power, and unity for human purposes that excludes God. **Ask them:** What did you think about that statement?

Tell them: We see at the outset of Genesis 11 that humanity was working together with a common language to build something great for themselves. They were working on a project to compete with God, similar to Adam and Eve wanting to be like God, they wanted to reach to Heaven. They were unified at the time.

Ask them: Do you remember what Pastor Michael said was their greatest fear? (verse 4)

They didn't want to be scattered, so they thought building this tower would keep them unified and safely together. Pastor Michael said that the tower isn't unlike what we modern believers do in our own lives, except that we build idols to protect ourselves from our fears. We fear that God isn't looking out for us. We fear the loss of security, power, and community.

Ask them: Can you think of some idols you have built in your life either past or present? Keep in mind that an idol is anything you go to for protection, comfort, joy, or provision and the like. It's anything you go to for what God has promised to provide for you.

Tell them: Pastor Michael went on to tell us about God scattering the people. He said this event is where we can trace a problem in our world today.

Ask them: Do you remember what it was? (Racism)

Tell them: It was at the Tower of Babel that God essentially created different races and languages by scattering the people across the globe. This event took the desire to make a great name for themselves from the one group and dispersed it into multiple ethnic groups.

Ask them: Why do you think that might lead to racism? (The same urge to make a name for themselves is now scattered so that groups compete against each other for that, instead of competing against God.)

NOTE: if you want to go deeper into this topic read 1 Peter 2:6-12 that Pastor Michael read, otherwise you can jump down to the next section.

"For it says in scripture, "Look, I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen and priceless cornerstone, and whoever believes in him will never be put to shame." So you who believe see his value, but for those who do not believe, the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and a stumbling-stone and a rock to trip over. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of

*his own, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. You once were not a people, but now you are God's people. You were shown no mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you as **foreigners** (on this earth) and **exiles** (from heaven) to keep away from fleshly desires that do battle against the soul, and maintain good conduct among the non-Christians, so that though they now malign you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God when he appears.” (1 Peter 2:6–12)*

Groundhog Day over and over again

Tell them: Pastor Michael said, “In the first book of the Bible and throughout the Old Testament, God shows us this same play of four acts over and over again:”

Ask them: Does anyone remember the four acts?

1. **Creation**
2. **Fall**
3. **Redemption**
4. **Restoration**

Tell them: So far in Genesis we have seen these same four acts in the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and his sons, and the sons and the nations. Pastor Michael said, “If you only focus on the fall, then you will be stuck in the despair of that Groundhog Day feeling, but if you focus on your redemption, there is hope for restoration.”

Ask them: So how do we get out of this cycle of sin?

Tell them: Pastor Michael gave us 5 things that help stop the cycle:

1. **Living as God intended us to live honors Him as the Creator.** **Ask them:** Why do you think that living as God intended would honor him as Creator? **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said, “We become redeemed through humility instead of pride. We don’t build human monuments or movements to make a name for ourselves. We recognize Him as Creator and in control, so we don’t fall into fear. We do that through humility but fear is rooted in pride.” **Ask them:** When you think about your fear, can you spot some ways that it is rooted in pride?
2. **Pursuing human unity without God leads to pride and great fall.** When we fall, God expels, scatters, etc. There are consequences to our personal and collective falls. **Ask them:** Can you think of any collective falls that can be traced back to pride? People not in power, once they get power, tend to oppress other not like themselves similar to those that used to be in power. Without acknowledging God’s authority and wielding power as humble servant leaders as Christ did and does, we oppress, and then more people rise up and we get booted and scattered.
3. **God is gracious enough to redeem our mistakes and give us hope.** Adam – God redeemed the fall and gave him Abel. Then God gives him Seth, Noah, Shem, Eber, Abraham, and ultimately Jesus, the ultimate and final redeemer
4. **No matter the size of the idol/tower we build, God can restore you from pride to humility.** He deconstructs your pride. He takes a sledgehammer to your idol of pride or power that you fear losing.
5. **With every idol God deconstructs he offers restoration of our relationship with Him.** We build idols to become self-sufficient, to bootstrap our way through life. He built us to

have communion with Him. Replace the idols we build daily. Just knowing about God leads to building idols. I can build a God like that or be a God like that. But knowing God in relationship leads you to deconstruct the idols that aim to replace Him.

“There is a difference between knowing God and knowing about God. When you truly know God, you have energy to serve him, boldness to share him and contentment in Him.” - J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*.

Knowing God gives you the ability to make God known. **You ask, “but what about my fears?”**

When it comes to the Tower of Babel – a massive undertaking by a unified people, each one of us builds our own towers out of pride, lust for power, but also out of fear. What is your Tower(s) of Babel?

How to deconstruct your fear.

1. Know your creator not just about him. Spend time, learn what he likes, how he sounds, what he loves, what his qualities are, and how he feels about you.
2. Acknowledge your failings.
3. Accept his redemption.
4. Participate in your restoration. Knock down your towers. Platform, power, compliments, adoration, attention, protection, isolation, etc. How do you knock those down? Know that he provides what you need. He scatters for your good so you focus on Him and don't build other God's that will fail you! Deconstruct!! Replace them with knowing your creator.

Tweetable Quotes:

1. There is a difference between knowing God and knowing about God. When you truly know God, you have energy to serve him, boldness to share him and contentment in Him. J.I. Packer
2. As a royal priesthood our citizenship is not preeminent in our lives.
3. I want to become more accurate image bearers of God.