

Text: Genesis 10-11:9

Background to the Tower of Babel:

The Tower of Babel portrays the self-reliance and self-promotion that lies deep within the human heart.

Two pursuits & Two motivations (Genesis 11:3-4):

Pursuit 1: Build a city

- A city represents safety, power, identity, and control.

Motivation 1: Self-comfort and self-preservation

(To keep from being spread throughout the earth)

Means: Build ourselves = Self-reliance

- One of the roots of self-reliance is the stronghold of fear & pride.

Questions for reflection:

- What “city walls” have I built to keep people in/out? Why?
- Do the most influential relationships in my life encourage me toward greater reliance on Jesus or on other things?
- What belief or lie am I holding to that keeps me from seeking greater reliance on God?

Pursuit 2: Build a tower that reaches to the skies

- A tower represents (A) Finding one’s way to the gods and (B) Achieving god-like status.

Motivation 2: Self-promotion (To make a name for themselves)

Questions for reflection:

- How does self-promotion show up in my life?
- How are these efforts taking me away from worshipping and promoting God?

God’s response (Genesis 11:5-9; 12:1-3)

- Came *down* to see what they have made
- Scatter the people throughout the earth
- Extend mercy and blessing to all the peoples of the earth

Pray: Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

Looking Back:

Is there something God taught you this past week? Or is there something that happened that we can be praying about?

Looking up:

What aspects of Genesis 10-11 and the sermon stood out to you most and why?

Where do you see self-reliance most in your life?

Where do you see self-promotion in your life?

Thinking about the “city walls” that we build to keep people in/out, what fear/s most influence how you approach life and relationships? How is God challenging you to tear those “city walls” down?

How does the good news of Jesus speak to the issues from this week’s sermon/text that hit closest to home for you?

Prayer: Spend time praying together based on what has been shared.

Looking forward:

What is one way that God is challenging you to respond to this week’s sermon/passage of Scripture?

Spiritual Practice for October: Silence/Solitude.

Set a minimum of 5 minutes/day aside to be in silent reflection before God. During this time, seek to quiet your mind and heart. Ask God to examine your heart and bring to your attention anything that you need to hand over to Him. Discuss your experience with your life group at the beginning of each week’s gathering.