



Leader Guide

Longing for Control

December 5, 2021

Main Passage: Genesis 11:1-9

Theological Theme

God is the sovereign King of the universe and will not share His glory with another. Furthermore, God, according to the counsel of His own will and for His own glory, uses even the sinfulness of man to accomplish His purposes on the earth.

Introduction

- ❓ Have someone read James 4:6 for the group. What do you think this verse means?
- ❓ Can you think of an example of someone being humble in the Scriptures? What about someone who was proud?

After the flood, God commanded Noah and his family to multiply and fill the earth. This was the same command he had given to Adam and Eve in the garden before sin entered the world. Noah's descendants did not obey. While they did multiply, they did not fill the earth. Instead they migrated together to the Plain of Shinar where they formed a great city. There they grew in number and in pride. They began to depend on themselves and set up their own greatness as an idol in their hearts. They did not depend upon God. They relied upon their own strength and wisdom. They leaned upon their own understanding (see Proverbs 3:5-6).

1. The Light of Your Own Fire (Genesis 11:1-4)

As the earth was being repopulated, all of the people had the same language. The Scriptures explain that the people migrated from the east and settled on the plain of Shinar. They said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let's make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered throughout the earth" (Genesis 11:4).

2. A Name for Ourselves (Genesis 11:4-7)

Pride is the root of man's desire for control. When a person has the audacity to disregard God's Word to follow their own wisdom, they show that they hold their own word in higher regard than God's. The prideful person not only follows their own way, but also believes they are deserving of adulation and glory. The people of Babel said, "Let's make a name for ourselves" (v. 4). They held themselves in such high regard that they put their energy and resources into a monument in recognition of their greatness.

3. The Lord Scattered Them (Genesis 11:8-9)

God was displeased with the prideful hearts and actions of the people of Babel. They were infatuated with themselves and disregarded the instructions He had given them. For this reason, God confused their language and dispersed them through all the earth.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?