

SERMON: Making a Name for Ourselves
SERIES: Genesis the Beginning of the Gospel
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

November 18, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. Why we build towers
- II. God's response to tower building

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group. Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. As you think through the Tower of Babel story what does it reveal to us about man's sinfulness? How do we see both pride and fear in this story?
2. In what ways are you "making a name for yourself" or "building a tower?" Or, to ask it another way, can you identify areas of your life where pride or fear have caused you to put earthly things above God?
3. "God came down" (v.7). How does this show us the judgment of God and the mercy of God? How does it point forward to the cross?
4. "They left off building the city" (v.8). God left the tower and the city unfinished, possibly as a testimony to our failed endeavors to run our own lives apart from God. Can you share with your group any "unfinished towers" in your life? How has God used them to humble you? How does this connect to your answer to #2?
5. How do we resist the need to make a name for ourselves? We must know that we are already named by God. Read Revelation 22:4; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18. How do these scriptures speak to your identity in Christ? How does this new identity allow you to live humbly for his name rather than for your own name?

Pray: Praise God for his faithful judgment and mercy in your life. Confess any towers that you are in the process of building. Ask God to fill your mind and heart with the truth of your identity in him, and the power to resist making a name for yourself.