

STUDY GUIDE

GENESIS: Week 7 7.6.14

[set up]

What experience do you have with building something? What frustrated or excited you the most about that?

What experience do you have with learning a foreign language? What frustrated or excited you the most about that?

Can you identify something that you or someone else built/did that clearly couldn't have been built/done apart from God? What's an important lesson that you've learned from this experience?

Can you identify something that you or someone else built/did that you think fell apart/came to ruin because God opposed it? What's an important lesson that you've learned from this experience?

[digging deeper]

Read Genesis 11:1-9. Discuss what modern day versions of building a city or a tower might be.

What specific sins/problems do you see in Genesis 11:4 that caused God to intervene and scatter the people?

In this weekend's message, we learned that God opposes our plans when 1) our initiatives are not from the Lord, 2) our building is not for the Lord, and 3) the glory is not to the Lord. Which of these three is the biggest problem in U.S. culture today and why? Which of these three is your biggest problem and why?

How would speaking a common language be a benefit to mankind's sinful efforts to build something that opposes or ignores God?

How is unity in Christ different from the unity in Babel?

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6b). How would you carefully and lovingly help a friend determine if what he/she has been experiencing lately is evidence that he/she is proud or humble?

Read Genesis 1:28 and Genesis 9:1. Why do some people call this the "First Great Commission"? How would confusing the language help to fulfill this "First Great Commission"?

Read Revelation 7:9-10. What was God's purpose in scattering the human race and confusing the languages? How will the fame, greatness, and worth of Christ be magnified because of the diversity of the peoples who recognize His beauty?



[living it out]

What are you currently building in your life? How is it going? How do you determine whether the problems you are facing are simply “fallen world” problems or God’s discipline? Have you ever wondered if God is opposing your project? What changes do you need to make?

Take some time as a LifeGroup to create a checklist (or a series of questions) you could create that would help someone evaluate the worthiness of any endeavor BEFORE they begin. Have someone write this down for the LifeGroup and send it to everyone. Who do you know who needs this information? How might this list help you? How might you get the information to others who might need it?

How is God seeking to “scatter” you to make His name great? Where does He want you to go on mission? In your LifeGroup, share the names of 3-5 people He wants you to reach. What are your plans this summer to be a LifeHouse to them – prayer, care, and share? When will you invite them to a worship, group, or serve event?

Close your time in prayer, asking God to help you resist building any self-initiated, self-centered, self-glorifying projects. Instead, ask Him to help you build God-initiated, God-centered, God-glorifying projects. Finally, pray that you will be scattered to witness to people who are far from God so that you see lost people saved.