

Sunday School Stories – Babel

Kyle Collins

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

We may have missed quite a bit in Bible stories we learned as kids

We need to return to them as adults to further understand what God wants to reveal to us.

*Is there a Bible story from childhood that you have come to a richer or deeper understanding of as an adult?

Genesis tells a story of the people building a city and tower

Read and discuss Genesis 11:1-9 (NIV)

11 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

*What stands out to you as you read this story again?

*What are some reasons the people might want to build a tower?

*What tensions do you notice in this passage?

The stories in the first part of Genesis help us to know what God is like

God is rejecting their misguided and selfish attempts to realize his presence and establish order for themselves.

*What does the Babel story tell us about God? What does it reveal about the heart of the God we worship?

*How have you tried to seek order for your life apart from Him?

Their greatest fear and the motivation for the city was the thing God most wanted

Reread Genesis 11:4

4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

*What can we learn about the misguided ways we try to relate or interact with God from this story?

*Has God acted in your life in a way that seemed punitive but was actually an act of mercy?

*What is the difference between uniformity and unity? Why are we drawn to huddle instead of being Sent?

There is something in each us that wants to build our Babel instead of follow God out of our comfort and preference to build His kingdom

*What is your Babel?

*What is the Spirit saying to you following God into what he is building instead?