



GENESIS GROUP GUIDE

SCRIPTURE DEVOTION | GENESIS 11

This week, in our study of Genesis, we will be looking more closely at the story of Babel found in chapter 11. This story displays the inclination of man's heart to build his own kingdom for his own glory rather than a heart to see God's glory fill the earth. This story ends a section of Genesis in which the story of mankind is described (1-11) and will now turn our gaze towards one particular family who will become the nation of Israel.

GENERAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

It is not likely that you will have time to read through all of the chapters as a group this week. Encourage members to read these chapters before group and to come prepared to discuss their impact.

- **What does this text say about God?**
 - How would you describe God after reading this passage? What do you learn about God's character and nature? How does this passage relate to how society defines God?
- **What does this text say about people?**
 - What do you learn about people's character and nature? How does this compare to what society says or believes about people?
- **What does this text say about how we should live in light of what he has done?**
 - What should I change in my life based on what I've read? Should I be praying about anything? Do I need to confess anything? Are there any promises I need to take hold of? What truths do I need to receive?

TEXT-BASED ONE ANOTHERING QUESTIONS

This time for group members to practice confession, repentance, accountability, biblical encouragement, etc. with the help of the Holy Spirit through his word.

- Read Genesis 9:1. Note what God commands Noah & his sons do. Now read Genesis 11:1-4.
 - Are these nations obeying God's command to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth?" What verses or phrases support your answer?
 - These nations are in explicit rebellion against God. Said another way, they are in sin. How have you been tempted to rebel against God's rule or reign in your life in recent weeks? Where have you been tempted to believe that you know better than God?
- Reread Genesis 11:4. Moses is deliberate with his language here, and it should sound familiar to us (Genesis 1:25). Moses connects God's good design of man (which will be the temple of God eventually) for God's glory to man's building of a tower (a temple of man) for man's glory.
 - Anything besides God vying for the glory of God is an idol. In this story, we see man vying for the glory of God, even vying for the role and reign of God, the right to rule the earth. In what ways does our culture today glorify man?
 - In recent weeks, what ways have you been tempted to trust in man instead of God? (*work, parenting, relationships, etc.*) In ways have you been tempted to hope in man instead of God? Have you given yourself to those temptations? Spend time in group confessing to and praying for one another.
 - This verse ends with a phrase that gives us a small insight into mankind's motivation, "lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."
 - Digging underneath their already noted outright rebellion, what are some possible reasons mankind didn't want to be dispersed? (*hint: there are several possible answers. Ex: physical safety, comfort, fear of the unknown, etc.*)
 - Some of these things are not sinful desires (safety, comfort, peace, etc.); however, when we seek to find them outside of God or when they rule over us or drive us more than God, they have become idols that we serve. Have you experienced this in the past, or are you currently walking in the idolization of these good desires? How can we walk alongside you in that struggle? How have you experienced freedom in those areas?

- Read Genesis 11:6-7. In these verses, we see God acknowledge the power of humanity when they are united. However, *what* has united them-- their rebellion against God to remain alike together-- means this unity is not glorifying God or good for his people. We know from previous verses that every intention of man's heart is only evil continually, so this unity of heart, mind, and purpose would only lead to their destruction. God responds by confusing their language and dispersing them over all the earth. This is a heartbreaking outcome for mankind following the recreation of the world, but this sin pattern described in these verses we will see again and again throughout the Old Testament. But God redeems this story!
 - In what ways do we repeat the inclinations of mankind in Babel, looking for unity in our similarities? How do you think our desires for comfort, peace, safety, etc., inform whom we are drawn towards?
 - Read Acts 2:1-8 & Revelation 7:9-12. As a group, explore how these stories redeem the story we've read today.

MISSION

Evangelism

We want to be intentional in our everyday lives to have gospel conversations with people that don't know Jesus. These people God has placed in our path are not projects, but friends. Friends we long to see have the hope and joy of Christ! Have each group member choose one person they are going to pray for and initiate conversations with about Jesus. Each week, follow up:

- Were they able to share the gospel with them, encourage them, or pray with them this week?
- How can the group pray for the group member? How can the group pray for the person they are walking with?
- What is one next step they can take with this person? Can they ask them to church? To come to community group? Read the Bible together? Etc.

Missions

We want to be mindful and prayerful for the work the Lord is doing in the world. There are tons of ways you can encourage your group members to engage in God's work around the world. Below are some ideas for this week:

- Read a recent update from your group's missionary/missionary family and pray for them.
 - Consider putting together a care package for them! Supply a list of items people can bring. Have kids draw cards/notes. Etc!
- The weather is beginning to change, work together as a group to plan a block party where your group can meet and bless the neighborhood that you meet in each week.
- Continue to pray for the war in Ukraine.

PRAYER

- Check in on life (ex. relationship with Christ (prayer & word), their marriages/singleness, children, etc.) to discover prayer needs.
- Spend time in confession & prayer for those who have shared areas of disbelief, wrong beliefs, sin, etc. during discussion time.
- Spend time as a group praying for Ukraine and Russia and the conflict there. Pray for the churches in both countries. Check out this [Instagram post](#) for helpful prayer points.
- If you have more time or separate time for men & women choose 1-2 questions on the following page for accountability time or create your own.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Knowing the members of your group, and having heard about their week, choose 1-2 questions for your time of confession, encouragement, & prayer. We have gathered these questions from various resources, so feel free to jump around this document or come up with your own questions to best serve your group.

- Have you been a testimony this week to the greatness of Jesus Christ with both your words and actions?
- Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate thoughts about someone who is not your spouse this week?
- Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings this week, or coveted something that does not belong to you?
- Have you been honoring, understanding and generous in your important relationships this past week?
- Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind their back or face-to-face?
- Have you given in to an addictive behavior this week? Explain.
- Have you continued to remain angry toward another?
- Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
- Did you finish your reading this week and hear from the Lord? What are you going to do about it?
- Did you spend significant time with God through His Word, prayer, quiet time, devotions, and other spiritual disciplines? How consistent? Is He your driving force?
- What blocks your growth in Christ? What blocks growth, in your other relationships, from becoming more mature and effectual?
- Have you faithfully served the Lord, His people, and the lost?
- Did you go and participate in church activities and worship this week? How so? Why not?
- Have you made your family a priority? What noteworthy activity or deed did you do for your spouse and/or family?
- How have you struggled with sin? What are the sins that have weighed down your walk with God this week?
- What did you do to enhance your relationship with your spouse/friends? What can you do to make that relationship better?
- In what ways has God blessed you this week? How have you shared your blessings?
- What disappointments did you face? Did they consume your thoughts? What did you do about it? What can you learn?
- Have you committed any sexual sin? Did you look at someone lustfully? Have you been alone in a compromising situation? Have you been flirtatious? Have you struggled with pornography or "romance novels?" Have you exposed yourself to any sexually oriented material? Did you put yourself in a situation with anyone that could appear to be compromising, even though it may not have been?
- Have you shared your faith? In what ways? How can you improve? Have you had an opportunity to share with a non-Christian?
- How well are you handling your finances right now? Have your financial dealings been questionable?
- Have you been trustworthy? Have you lied? Stolen? Cheated? Been dishonest or manipulative? Have you elevated yourself over another for your own personal agenda? What about your language and attitude?
- Have you been prideful? Have you been guilty of gossip or anger? Slandered? Shown indifference? Been greedy? Not controlled your tongue?
- Have you demonstrated a servant's heart? How so? What have you done for someone else this week?
- Did you struggle with a disappointment this week? How did you handle it?
- Have you respected and treated your classmates, co-workers and peers graciously by showing them compassion and the love of God in your words and deeds? What can you do to enhance your relationships here?
- How is your level of character, according to the comparison of Gal. 5:22-23 versus Gal. 5:19-21?
- How did you practice joy this week? Have you had a thankful attitude toward God? Have you struggled with anger toward God? How so? What can you do about it?
- Have you taken care of the temple of the Holy Spirit with rest, sleep, exercise, healthy eating, etc? What about addictions, gluttony, or substance abuse?
- Have you been honest while answering these questions? If not, how so? If not, why?
- How can we support you as a group?