

# The Gospel Project



DailyLife  
Five Oaks Church

Week 6: October 15–21, 2016

# Day 1

October 17



*Pray* / Ask your heavenly Father to help you see his plans for your life.

## AFTER THE FLOOD

Prior to the period of human history that we will examine this week, God had severely judged mankind with a great flood, leaving only one family to replenish the whole earth. It is said that the Lord had regretted making mankind, because the intention of their hearts was only evil continually. After the flood, mankind flourished. There were likely stories of the flood, and God's hope for man passed from one generation to another.

As you read the text, you will see that the people became intent on vain glory and greatness apart from God. The seeds of humanism had taken root, and it empowered the masses so that even God would say, "Nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them" (Genesis 11:6). Mankind does have great potential, but God always will be greater, and we never will achieve what we were created for apart from a relationship with him.



*Read* / Genesis 11:1–6



*Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

Look up the definition of the word *humanism*. Do you see any similarities between the current world's society and what is described in Genesis 11?

What do you think society would be like if left completely to itself, without God ever intervening or influencing what we do?

It was not individual evil acts that God was alarmed with, but a society bent toward pseudosuccess, rooted in self-worship. How might God be prompting you to address your own tendency toward self-worship?

# Day 2

October 18



*Pray / Ask God to keep deception and lies far from you.*

## WHICH GOD?

Today we will take a short break from Genesis 11 to consider our role in the story of God. Yesterday a question was asked about what the world might be like without any influence from God. A humanist might say, “Influence from God? Which one? There are so many religions, and all they cause is conflict!”

However, Scripture says there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one body (the church), one Spirit, one God and Father of all. Different from any other faith on the face of the earth, the story of God is about God’s self-sacrificing pursuit of mankind rather than mankind’s attempts to seek God through works that will not fix our problem. It is a new creation that is necessary for each and every one of us.



*Read / Ephesians 4:4–5*



*Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

Jesus called his followers salt and light in this world, “a city set on a hill” that cannot be hidden (Matthew 5:13–14). If you are a believer in the only God, how is your call toward the world different from that of other religions?

At the present time, the church, through the work of his Spirit, is God’s main influencer in the world. There are many Christian church organizations, often doctrinally divided, yet the apostle Paul said there was one body. That is because the church is truly an organism, not just an organization, made up of a diverse family of those who truly believe. If you were to ask God which connection is more powerful and more meaningful—our genetic family relationships or the spiritual connection to our brothers and sisters in Christ—what do you think he would say?

Considering that Jesus forgave your sins, the ones that so easily set you back, how does this affect your approach to influencing the world as a part of his church?

# Day 3

October 19



*Pray / Ask God to shield you from just serving yourself.*

## THE WRONG PATH

Today we will take another look at Genesis 11:1–5. The people were one and seemed to be of the same mind. They had a project they were putting all their energy into. They were concerned about not being “dispersed over the face of all the earth” (verse 4), and there may have been rational benefits to remaining as one people. However, again the hearts of the people were intent on exalting themselves and leaving God out of the picture. As you reread these verses, consider your own life and how you approach success.



*Read / Genesis 11:1–5*



*Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

The Scripture says, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6). Not only are none of us immune to being tempted to live as though God wasn’t there, but we all have actually done it! What are some ways that Christians in general try to make a name for themselves and live as though God doesn’t exist?

Verse 5 says, “The LORD came down to see.” If God came down to see your plans and what you are putting your energy into, how do you think he would size you up?

When we attempt to make a name for ourselves, only for other people to marvel, what void do you think we are longing to fill in our hearts?

*Day 4*  
*October 20*



*Pray / Ask God for a glimpse of how great his glory is.*

**BABEL**

In Genesis 11:7–8 God decides to take action. In a novel way he divides mankind by changing their languages. To the humanist, it might look as if God is guilty of slowing progress, but his intent is to slow the spread of mankind’s destructive enslavement to self-worship and vain glory. Perhaps he did this in hope that some might grope for him and find him during confusing and troubling times. He also had a plan—a plan to buy mankind back from their slavery to sin.



*Read / Genesis 11:7–8*





*Reflect | Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

Would you say that God has abundant glory? Interestingly, Scripture says that he wants to share it with us. Jesus said in prayer, “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, *that they may be one*, even as we are one, I in them and you in me, *that they may become perfectly one*, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me” (John 11:22–23, emphasis added). Instead of our pursuing vain glory, he wants to give his glory to us. Which glory do you think is better?

The glory Jesus gives could be described as life lived by the power and blessing of God. What do you think hinders the church most from walking in his glory?

Personally, what hinders you most from walking in his glory?

# Day 5

October 21



*Pray / Ask God for a vision of his hope for the church.*

## ONE

When the people of Shinar no longer could understand each other, they separated and were dispersed over the “over the face of all the earth” (Genesis 11:9). Don’t get the idea that God loves division. We saw yesterday that Jesus’ goal is that we be one through our sharing in his glory. Here’s more evidence that his goal is to bring us together: In the book of Acts, when the Holy Spirit fell on Jesus’ followers at Pentecost, they spoke in diverse tongues. This miracle was such that many visitors to Jerusalem—those from all over the known world—heard of the “mighty works of God” (Acts 2:11) in their own language. Diverse languages were used to draw them together instead of to disperse them, as they did at Babel. The outcome was that thousands were saved. Some call this event the “anti-Babel.”



*Read / Genesis 11:9*



*Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

As God's church we always will be diverse, yet he wants us to be also, miraculously, one. How can you strive to experience the oneness with your brothers and sisters in Christ, whom God wants to establish in the church?

Considering what you have learned about Babel and the "anti-Babel," what do you think the church needs most to experience God's intent for unity?

Using your imagination, how would you describe a life lived in the oneness that God intends for his diverse church?

*Portions of this study were adapted from The Gospel Project Chronological: The Story Begins, Vol. 1, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.*

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