

SERIES: The Story Begins (Gospel Project)

SERMON 6: "The Creator Slows the Spread of Evil"

TEXT: Genesis 11:1-9

DATE: October 15/16, 2016

"Five Oaks Church exists to glorify God by making disciples who make disciples, while faithfully and strategically stewarding the resources God entrusts to us."

A Short Introduction to "Glory"

GLORIFY!

God tells us to glorify him. "Glorify" means "to make a big deal of." When someone makes a big deal of you, it fills up your heart with joy.

But why does God need us to make a big deal of him? Why does he need us to get joy? He doesn't.

In the beginning God the Father and Jesus, his Son, together with the Holy Spirit, were already there—a loving family, glorifying each other in this wonderful Dance of Joy.

No. God didn't create us so he could get joy—he already had it.

He created us so he could share it.

He knows it's the thing your heart most needs to be happy. When God says, "Glorify me!", he's really saying, "Be filled with Joy!"

He's inviting us into his Forever Happiness.

Sally Lloyd-Jones. Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing

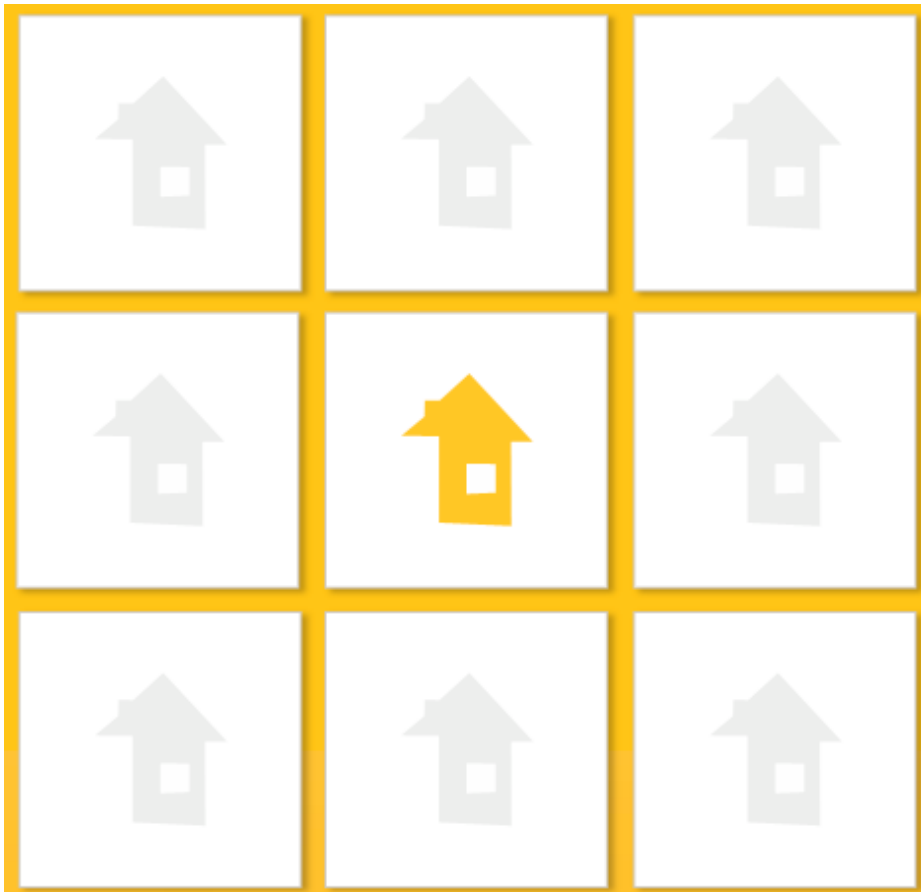
John 17: ¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you..."

John 16: ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me...

John 17: ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them...

1 Corinthians 2: ⁷ His secret purpose framed from the very beginning [is] to bring us to our full glory. (New English Bible)

BLOCK MAP



*Download Table Tent Prayer Reminder at henry-williams.net

1. God sees our misdirected _____ for glory.

Genesis 11:1-5

- "They said to _____"
- "Let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the _____"
- "Let us make a _____ for ourselves"
- "Lest we be _____ over the face of the whole earth"

2. In his mercy, God _____ our quest.

Genesis 9:6-9

- D _____
- D _____
- D _____

The theme of the _____ in God's judgment points forward to the cross of Jesus.

3. In his grace, God calls us to _____ his glory.

Matthew 5:16

We're not peddling religion; we're _____ Jesus and joy.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God confused the language of those who sought to make themselves known. At Pentecost, God tore down the language barrier so that his people would scatter across the world and make known the great name of Jesus.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Reflect on what it means to glorify God through your life.
3. How was building the Tower of Babel a misdirected quest for glory?
4. Describe a time when God spoiled one of your misdirected quests for glory.
5. When you think about sharing your faith as promoting Jesus and joy, how does it change your perception of sharing your faith?
6. Fill out the block map on the back of the notes to the best of our ability. Enter the names of your neighbors in the squares and indicate whether they are strangers to you (S), acquaintances (A), or people with whom you are in a relationship (R). You may want to create a separate map that reflects more accurately the configuration of your near neighbors. (To download a larger map, go to <http://www.artofneighboring.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/blockmap-1.pdf>) Be prepared to share your map with your small group.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it so important for our family to consult God in the decisions we make?
2. What are some successes our family has experienced? Did we take the credit for those or did we glorify God?
3. What are some practical ways our family can make sure we are working to advance God's kingdom, not our own desires?

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is sin?