



Reverse the Curse

Whenever humanity has operated in self interest and self elevation historically, it tends to result in chaos, confusion, and despair. This ultimately is the curse that sin bears in our lives. However, God has an alternative for us. Where we bring confusion and unrest, He brings clarity and peace.

- What is something that stuck out to you from last Sunday's teaching?
- Circle Time: Share about a time that you made a life decision based on what you wanted rather than what God wanted?
 - At what point did you realize that it wasn't what God wanted for you?
 - How did it affect your life as well as others?
 - If needed, how did you find resolution?
- Read Genesis 11:1-9
 - In Genesis 9:1 God mandates for humanity to populate the earth. How does the exclamation in v. 4, "come let us build *ourselves* a city" support or contradict God's desires for humanity?
 - Do you think they really thought they could build a tower into the heavens? If so, what does this say about them?

The text here is describing a Mesopotamian ziggurat, a stepped solid "tower". The ziggurat was not itself a temple for human worship. On the small platform at the top, it had a chamber for the use of the god for whom it was built. The temple of that god, where humans worshipped him or her, was a separate structure at the base of the ziggurat. The top of the ziggurat was regarded as the gateway to heaven; the ziggurat itself was the stairway from earth to heaven.

- What does it tell you about the purposes of the Israelites that they were trying to build one of these ziggurats?
 - Why do you think it was imperative for God to scatter and confuse them?
- Read Acts 2:1-11
 - Compare and contrast these two narratives. What is the same? What is different?
 - When humanity regards itself as sovereign it tries to rise up to where the gods are. When humanity regards God as Sovereign they recognize Him in their presence. What does the word Sovereign mean? *Possessing supreme or ultimate power.*
 - What do you think is significant about the fact that the people gathered were from many different nations with many different languages?
 - With this reversal of activity what do you think God was establishing on earth? *His spiritual kingdom that transcends earthly nations and boundaries.*
- How does this inform you about how to live your life daily?