

AND THEY BUILT A TOWER

Genesis 11:1–9 | Origin Story | August 9, 2026

Pastor Casey Scott



BIG IDEA

Unity in rebellion to God is bad, but unity in submission to God's will is good.

CONNECT	READ	DISCUSS	RESPOND
10 min	10 min	30 min	10 min

CONNECT *Begin with honesty and curiosity*

Opening Prayer

Ask God to help your group recognize the difference between human consensus and spiritual discernment—and to submit every plan, goal, and ambition to Him.

Opening Question

- A. Think of a time when a group was completely united—but headed in the wrong direction. What made it difficult for someone to question the plan?

Read Together

Read Genesis 11:1–9 aloud. As you listen, notice what the people say, what they want, and how God responds.

- B. What words, actions, or repeated phrases stand out to you in the passage?

EXPLORE THE TEXT *Unity in rebellion is focused on self*

KEY TRUTH

Unity gives strength to a group, but it does not give righteousness to its goal. Being together does not make us right; it only makes our voice louder.

1. The people shared one language, one location, and one purpose. Which of those things were good gifts—and what turned their unity into rebellion?
2. The sermon says they had “perfect horizontal communication but no vertical submission.” Where do you see that in verses 3–4?
3. How is consensus different from discernment? What questions help a family, ministry, team, or church move from “What do we agree on?” to “What does God want?”
4. The bricks and building skill were not sinful. How can technology, talent, money, influence, or efficiency amplify what is already in the human heart?
5. What do the phrases “build ourselves” and “make a name for ourselves” reveal about the people’s deepest motivations?
6. The sermon describes their pride as “fear wearing a hard hat.” How can fear of being forgotten, scattered, powerless, or insecure drive pride and control?

PAUSE

Where are you most tempted to ask, “What can I accomplish for myself?” before asking, “What does God want?”

SEE THE CONTRAST *Babel, Pentecost, and heaven*

The sermon traces the story beyond Babel to Acts 2 and Revelation 7. God does not erase human diversity; He brings different people together under the lordship of Jesus.

BABEL Genesis 11	PENTECOST Acts 2	HEAVEN Revelation 7
One language used to glorify humanity	Many languages used to glorify God	Every language worships before the Lamb
“Let us make a name for ourselves”	People call on the name of the Lord	Salvation belongs to God and the Lamb
People gather to avoid being scattered	Disciples gather so they can be sent	People from every nation gather around Jesus

7. What is the most important difference between the unity at Babel and the unity at Pentecost?

8. Why is “Does it work?” an incomplete test of success? What changes when we also ask, “Is this what God wants?”

9. “Unity in submission does not mean everyone becoming identical.” How can a church value real differences while remaining united around the same King?

10. The sermon says, “Babel gathers to preserve itself. The church gathers to be sent.” What would outward-focused unity look like for your group or household this week?

LIVE IT OUT *Whose name, mission, and glory?***REMEMBER**

Success cannot sanctify rebellion. A plan can be efficient, popular, impressive, and still be out of step with God's will.

Personal Reflection

11. Whose name are you building? Where are you tempted to seek recognition, reputation, or lasting significance for yourself?

12. Whose mission are you pursuing? Is there a goal you need to surrender, redirect, or place under God's authority?

13. Whose glory are you seeking? What would it look like for Jesus—not your comfort, image, or control—to become the center?

Choose One Step

- Discern before deciding: Pause one active plan and ask, “What has God said, and where is He leading?”
- Turn outward: Use one resource—time, skill, money, influence, or encouragement—to help make Jesus known.
- Practice submitted unity: Invite a trusted believer to pray and discern with you instead of simply agreeing with you.
- Release control: Name one fear beneath your striving and surrender the outcome to God.

My step this week:**Prayer**

Father, reveal where our unity, ambition, or success has become centered on ourselves. Teach us to seek Your will before our own plans. Unite us around the name of Jesus, send us outward in love, and use our lives for Your mission and Your glory. Amen.

“Babel’s unity is sameness centered on self. Heaven’s unity is diversity centered on the Lamb.”