



## **Connect Discussion Guide**

### **3.7.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Genesis 11**

*I am the problem in need of divine intervention.*

#### **Key Scriptures:**

*Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar.*

*Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.*

*And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."*

*So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.*

- Genesis 11:1-9

*Keep me from lying to myself; give me the privilege of knowing your instructions.*

- Psalm 119:29

#### **Message Highlights:**

- Seldom do we immediately see our own vulnerabilities.
- Danger looms when we choose our plans over God's purpose.
- Genealogies reveal amidst the events of Genesis that the seed that will bring about the Messiah who fulfills the mission of God cannot be thwarted, scattered or demolished.
- At times, what we may consider a disaster, God might see as divine intervention.
- "Self-deception is not the worst thing you can do, but it's the means by which we do the worst things. The sin that is most distorting your life right now is the one you can't see." - Tim Keller
- "Our humanity isn't the entire problem; it's our failure to admit our humanity and take the appropriate measures to live within God designed limits." - Alan Ahlgrim

#### **Conversation Starter:**

- What feels scattered to you these days? How can you live with the faith that God will fulfill his promises even when you can't see it yet?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Genealogies in the Bible (i.e. Genesis 11:10-32) often become triggers for tuning out until the exciting stories resume. Keeping in mind that genealogies actually illustrate God's unwavering plan, re-read through the genealogies of Noah and Shem with fresh eyes. What stands out to you?
2. The people of Babel were creating chaos by "making a name for themselves" before the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth. How were these people being caught in self-deception? Knowing we are seldom attune to our own vulnerabilities, what do you think it looks like to draw near the Lord as we strive to be aware of our vices?
3. God scattered the people of Babel for their own good, although it may not have seemed that way to them at the time. Have you ever had your plans scattered and looked back to see that God was intervening? How did you initially respond? How did you respond when you realized it was actually his protection and purpose at work in your life?
4. Compare and contrast the people's version of unity versus God's version of unity based on The Tower of Babel. How does this text alter the way you approach seeking unity with others in your life?
5. At times, we all choose our plans over God's purposes, just as the people of Babel did. What is your "Tower of Babel?" What do you need to do to dismantle your "Babel" so that you can fulfill the mission he has called you to?

**Pray:**

*Heavenly Father, you are infinitely wise and you are good beyond all that we could imagine. Your purposes are right. All of your plans are for our good and for the good of all humanity. Forgive us for the times we have made plans that conflict with your purpose. Thank you for the times you have thwarted those plans to keep us on the path that you have for us. We no longer want to make a name for ourselves. Instead, we want to lift high the name of Jesus. Amen.*