

These questions are for the April 26, 2026, message, “A Great Name, Part 1.” Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 11:1-9) out loud.

Passage Outline

What does the Tower of Babel teach us?

1. Mankind wants significance apart from God (1-4).
 - a. We want to build our own cities (SOCIAL rebellion).
 - b. We want to build our own towers (RELIGIOUS rebellion).
 - c. We want to make great names for ourselves (look for wholeness apart from God).
2. God acts in loving judgment (5-8).
 - a. God confuses (“Babel-izes”) their language as judgment.
 - i. To stop their efforts toward great rebellion.
 - ii. To disperse (or “scatter”) them throughout the earth (see Gen 10).
 - b. He reduces the extent, the effect and the potency of their rebellion for their own good.
3. We look ahead to true significance (9).
 - a. True significance is found in “calling upon the name of the Lord” (Gen 4:26; Zeph 3:9).
 - b. Two times when God reverses the curse of confused languages at Babel:
 - i. At Pentecost, when many languages are miraculously heard as one.
 - ii. At Christ’s Second Coming we will all speak one language forever (Zeph 3:9).

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. From number 1, above: We said significance is “A forward-looking identity, anchored in serving God rather than self-centered achievements.” How have you wasted time in your life pursuing and treasuring self-centered achievements? How did your own tendencies and your friends encourage you to trust yourself more?
2. From number 1, above: God has given you gifts and skills to use for His glory. We must be motivated to work very hard (1 Cor 10:31). We must also guard against taking the glory for ourselves when those gifts produce praise. How are you learning to use the gifts that God gave you only for the glory of His name?
3. From number 2, above: God brought judgment on the people of Babel which caused them to be confused and dispersed. God’s judgment reduced the extent and impact of their wickedness. How has God’s chastening been used in your life to reduce the impact of your rebellion on others? On others’ rebellion against you?
4. From number 3, above: We are truly significant when we know God. When we know that He loves us, and we grow in our love and obedience to Him. It’s the greatest thing that can be said of any person (check out John 17:3, Jer 9:24 and Zeph 3:9). We know God through Jesus Christ. How is God changing your mind, motivations and outlook with a growing contentment and confidence that you know God?