

INTERACTIVE TEACHING/LEARNING GUIDE
Week 4

SESSION TITLE: "Babel: Why We're Divided"
FOCAL PASSAGE: (Genesis 11:1-9)

Central Teaching/Learning Aim: To help the learner discover the errors the people of Babel made and to commit to avoid those same errors.

I. Creating Interest in the Series (Hook)

A. Display and ask the following question:

"How do people try and build monuments to be remembered?"

Allow time for responses.

Baseball legend Ted Williams who passed away a few years ago had a different plan in death. He was to be frozen with the hope of someday being brought back to life. He and his family had great plans to try and outsmart God's plan. The people of Babel were trying to outsmart God and do their own thing.

Read (Genesis 11:1-9)

Ask members to listen for evidence that the people were trying to play God.

State – Today we are going to discuss how the people of Babel became arrogant, rebellious and prideful and how we should avoid these characteristics.

B. Optional Method – Movie Clip "The Terminal"

Start: 13:15

Stop: 14:00

Synopsis: Viktor (Tom Hanks) is from another country and does not speak English. He gets stuck in an airport terminal and becomes a man without a country. In this clip, he struggles to communicate and feels all alone because of his language barrier.

Ask – Have you ever had to try and communicate with someone who didn't speak your language?

Common language is a unifying commodity.

Read (Genesis 11:1-9)

Ask – Members to listen for evidence of how God used the confusing language to help separate and disperse the people all over the face of the earth.

State – Today we are going to discuss how the people of Babel became arrogant, rebellious and prideful and how we should avoid these characteristics.

II. Book

A. **Utilize** the discussion guide to examine the Scripture passages.

III. Look

A. **Distribute** the handout “Principles From Babel” and guide members through it. Note: You could also place members into groups and have them work on the handout together.

IV. Took

A. **Object Lesson** - Take the Lord’s Supper together. What a great way to remember that God is in control and we need to follow Him in obedience. One of the best ways that Christian’s can remember who is in charge is to take communion together. Lead your ABF in a time of remembering. (See attached outline for the Lord’s Supper.)

The Lord's Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it He broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom," (Matt. 26:26-29).

We Live in Constant Danger of Forgetting...Don't Forget

- I. The Lord's Table is a table of **Remembrance**.
 - A. (**I Corinthians 11:24**) And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in REMEMBRANCE of me."

- II. The Lord's Table is a table of **Communion**.
 - A. (**I Corinthians 10:16-17**) Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a PARTICIPATION in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a PARTICIPATION in the body of Christ? Because there is ONE loaf, we, who are many, are ONE body, for we all PARTAKE of the ONE loaf.

- III. The Lord's Table is a table of **Thanksgiving**.
 - A. (**I Corinthians 11:24**) And when He had given THANKS, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

- IV. The Lord's Table is a table of **Promise**.
 - A. (**I Corinthians 11:25**) In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This is the new COVENANT in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

- V. The Lord's Table is a table of **Proclamation**.
 - A. (**I Corinthians 11:26**) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you PROCLAIM the Lord's death until He comes.

- VI. The Lord's Table is a table of **Anticipation**.
 - A. (**I Corinthians 11:26**) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death UNTIL HE COMES.

Conclusion

Lead – Members in a closing song of remembrance or thanksgiving. (Examples: "Give thanks with a grateful heart...", "He paid a debt, He did not owe...", "There is a Redeemer", "He is Lord", "Amazing Grace".) Then close in prayer.

DISCUSSION GUIDE
(Teacher's Copy)

1. How were the people united in the following verses?
 - a. (Gen. 11:1) The people had a common language.
 - b. (v. 2) They were united by a common geography.
 - c. (v. 3) They were united in purpose (brick making).

2. How did the people misuse their use of common language?
(They used it to unify for the wrong motives.)

3. How did the people settling in the valley of Shinar commit an act of disobedience?
(They had been commanded to spread out and fill the land, not congregate in cities.)

4. How did the people making brick and mortar demonstrate disobedience?
(They were intent on settling down and building a monument instead of obeying God.)

5. How did the statement "lest we be scattered over the face of the whole earth" sum up the problem of the people in Babel? (v.4)
(They were trying to go their own way and build a monument to their own ingenuity.)

6. When God came down to investigate what was His appraisal? (v. 6)
(The people were putting their trust in their own ingenuity.)

7. What are examples of men believing in their own ingenuity more than God?

8. How did God break up the enterprise of the people? (vs. 7-9)

9. What was His purpose in confusing their language?

DISCUSSION GUIDE
(Student's Copy)

1. How were the people united in the following verses?

a. (Gen. 11:1)

b. (v. 2)

c. (v. 3)

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PRINCIPLES FROM BABEL

PRINCIPLE 1 Man cannot change God's purpose
The best thing you can do is discover God's will for your life and pursue it with all of your might.
What is God's will for your life? _____

Are you in the middle of His will? If not, what needs to change?

PRINCIPLE 2 Unity is good but obedience to God's Word is best
How could a Christian group be unified but not obey God?

Are you living out God's Word in your life?

PRINCIPLE 3 False relationships and artificial ingenuity will rob you from the real meaning of life

Are your relationships "real"? If not, what needs to happen?

Do you try to appear busy while getting little accomplished for things that really matter?

PRINCIPLE 4 Do not spend your time building a monument to yourself, it will not last

How can you build monuments that are eternal?

How do you need to adjust your priorities and schedule?

THE Word For The Week

PROMISE: WHAT'S THE PLAN
GENESIS 12:1-9

Monday – Read Genesis 11:26-32

- The study this week involves the man (Abram or Abraham) that God chose, to reveal His plan to build a great nation. Through this plan we will see how Abram allows God to guide and direct His life. So enjoy the study.
- Where was Abram raised? Why did he move from Ur? Who is Abram's wife? Who is Lot? These few verses tell a little about Abram and his family.
- This week as you study notice how God begins to reveal His plan to Abram, and how Abram responds.
- Take a few moments to pray and ask God to give you wisdom and insight as you study.

Tuesday – Read Genesis 12:1

- Many times in our lives we come to a place where we feel God is asking us to do something that is far greater than we could ever do ourselves. We see an example of this when God asks Abram to leave his country, leave his relatives, and leave his father's house, and go to a land that is unknown to Abram.
- Do you recall such a time as this in your life? Maybe not to the magnitude of Abram, but yet very, very important and big. How did you respond? Was there a trust issue?
- Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
- Pray today for God to give you an extra portion of faith.

Wednesday – Read Genesis 12:2-3

- Throughout scripture we find God's commands to His people with plans and promises.
- In Genesis 12:1-3, we see God's command as well as His plans, and promises to Abram... What is expected of Abram by God?
- Spend a few moments allowing God to speak to your heart about the plans he has for your life.

Thursday – Read Genesis 12:4-6

- What do these scriptures tell you about Abram?
- What do these scriptures tell you about God?
- Spend a few moments in quiet meditation on God's Word.

Friday – Read Genesis 12:7-9

- How did Abram respond to God when they reached the land of Canaan?
- How do you respond when God is faithful to see you through difficult circumstances or guides you through plans in your life that seemed impossible?
- Read Jeremiah 29:11-13 – WHAT IS GOD'S PLANS FOR YOUR LIFE?

Ancient/Future - A Journey through Genesis
"Flood: When God sees sin"
Genesis 6:5-9:17

(Exegetical . . . What it meant Israel back THEN)

Note: By chapter 6 of Genesis sin had filled the earth like a universal infection of evil. Humans had "destroyed" (corrupted) the creation with all kinds of evil and wrongdoing. God, who hated sin, looked down and grieving, determined to judge the inhabitants of the land.

Remember that the serpent had denied God's promise of judgment (3:4). And Israel must never doubt that their Lord would judge their sin. That is how He dealt with sin in Noah's day. That is how He would deal with Israel's sins of doubt, unbelief, and disobedience. Moses' warning was unambiguous.

Noah was the sole exception to the corruption that had spread across the land. He was righteous and blameless. He "walked" with the Lord. And to Noah and his family God demonstrated grace (favor). Noah was the remnant.

**THE LORD'S RESPONSE TO THE SIN OF MANKIND,
SIN THAT HAD CORRUPTED THE LAND (CREATION), WAS**
1) **TO WIPE OUT EVERY LIVING CREATURE, EXCEPT FOR
THE RIGHTEOUS AND BLAMELESS NOAH WHOM HE DELIVERED BY MEANS
OF THE ARK WHICH FLOATED ABOVE THE FLOOD WATERS OF JUDGMENT,
ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY AND ENOUGH ANIMALS OF EACH KIND TO
REPOPULATE THE LAND, AND**
2) **TO COVENANT WITH NOAH AND ALL LIVING CREATURES NEVER AGAIN
TO JUDGE THE WORLD BY FLOOD.**

- I. The reasons the Lord determined to wipe out mankind, but to favor Noah, were because mankind had "destroyed" creation, but Noah was righteous and blameless, having a relationship of obedience before the Lord, (6:5-12).
 - A. The sole exception to the Lord's word of judgment [that He would destroy (wipe out) mankind and all the animals and birds that He had created], since He was sorry He had made them, in that He was grieved in His heart because wickedness had multiplied on the earth and mankind's intent was only and always evil, was Noah who found favor (grace) with the Lord, (6:5-8).
 - B. The righteous [before man] and blameless [before God] character of Noah who "walked with God" (suggesting a relationship of obedience and blessing) contrasted to the corruption and violence that God saw had filled the land, (6:9-12).

Note: The word "corrupt" meant "to destroy" and was used three times in 11-12. Mankind had "destroyed" God's creation. That was why He would "wipe them out." But Noah was the remnant who would escape God's judgment; being righteous and blameless, maintaining a relationship with God.

- II. God's words of warning, instruction, explanation, and promise, given to prepare Noah to escape the coming judgment, were fully obeyed, (6:13-22).
 - A. God's warning to Noah of His intent to destroy (same as "corrupt" in 11-12) mankind revealed His reason for judgment: mankind had filled the land with violence (outrage, wrong), (6:13).

- B. God's instructions to Noah concerning the building of an ark (a "chest" in which to escape) specified the details of its construction, (6:14-16).
- C. God's explanation to Noah regarding the reason for his building the ark was that He was bringing a flood upon the land to destroy all flesh so that everything that breathed would perish [creation reversed], (6:17).
- D. God's promise to Noah was that He would establish a covenant with him (and with his sons and their families), (6:18).
- E. God's instructions to Noah concerning the animals and provisions he was to bring aboard the ark provided for the survival of all the species of animal and the survival of Noah's family, (6:19-21).
- F. Noah's response to God's words was full obedience, (6:22).

Note: The pattern of God's provision [He spoke, His command was carried out, the result was blessing (9:1)] echoed the story of creation (Genesis 1:28) and anticipated the construction of the tabernacle (Exodus 39:43). Moses' point for Israel was clear. God had a plan and when they followed that plan fully because of their faith in Him, they could expect deliverance and blessing. They would be a remnant of righteous and blameless people in an evil (fallen) world and they would find favor (grace) in the eyes of the Lord.

- III. The result of the flood, from which the Lord preserved Noah and his family because he alone on the earth was righteous, was that every bird, animal, and human being not on the ark was destroyed, leaving only the obedient Noah, his family, and his animals alive, (7:1-24).

- A. Noah's consistent (cp. 6:22) response to the Lord's command to come into the ark before the rain was to come and destroy all living things was obedience, (7:1-6).
- B. The result of the 40 days of flooding that covered all the mountains under the sky was that all except Noah and his family and the animals that were on board, as God had commanded, were destroyed from the land, (7:7-24).

Note: The point of chapter 7 was to demonstrate that the Lord did judge the sinful inhabitants of the land, as He had promised. Moses also gave Israel a vivid picture of His care for the obedient (see 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16) remnant. The Lord invited Noah to come into the ark, noted his righteousness, warned him of coming judgment, shut the door, and delivered Noah.

- IV. The Lord's response to Noah's sweet smelling sacrifice, after He had remembered Noah and caused the waters to recede, and commanded Noah to exit the ark, was to promise never again to destroy every living thing as He had by the flood, (8:1-22).
 - A. The result of God's remembering Noah and all that were with him in the ark was that He caused the flooding to stop and the waters to decrease so that the ark rested (see 2:15) on the mountains of Ararat, (8:1-5).
 - B. Noah's waiting and testing of the water's level eventually resulted in his discovering that the land had dried from the flooding, (8:6-14).
 - C. Noah's response to God's command that he bring out from the ark with him all his family and all the animals so that they might be fruitful and multiply (see 1:22, 28) was obedience and worship, (8:15-20).

Note: Moses portrayed a renewed creation here. It was clearly a fresh start. The earth had reverted to chaos (cp. 1:2), but with the waters receding a renewed

("washed") earth emerged. Noah was starting well by building an altar and offering burnt offerings.

D. The Lord's response to Noah's sweet smelling sacrifice [acceptable to the Lord] was to promise never again to destroy by a flood every living thing as He had, (8:21-22).

Note: The oracle of verse 22 promised that, unlike the situation during the year long flood, the land would experience the four seasons on a yearly basis without interruption.

- V. God's blessing of Noah, which included both provision for life and the protection of life, established a new earthly order that would preserve the promise of blessing, (9:1-7).
- A. God's blessing of Noah, as He had blessed Adam (1:28), established a new [renewed] earthly order [of being fruitful and multiplying] that would preserve the promise of blessing, (9:1).
 - B. God's blessing included provision for life by providing both animals and plants for food, (9:2-3).
 - C. God's blessing included a prohibition against devaluing life by prohibiting the eating of animals with the lifeblood still in them and the shedding of human blood, (9:4-6).
 - D. God's blessing of Noah, as He had blessed Adam (1:28), established a new [renewed] earthly order to preserve the promise of blessing, (9:7).
- VI. God's covenant with Noah and with all living creatures, including both the promise of no more universal judgment by flood and the sign in the cloud of the rainbow, was meant to encourage Noah after the destruction of the flood, (9:8-17).
- A. God's covenant with Noah and all living creatures included the promise of no more universal judgment by flood, (9:8-11).
 - B. God's covenant with Noah and all living creatures included the sign of the rainbow, (9:12-17).
- Note: The effect of God's covenant, as promised in 6:18, would have been to comfort the flood/judgment wearied/worried(?) Noah.

(Theological . . . What it means to believers ALWAYS)

**GOD'S GRACIOUS DELIVERANCE OF A RIGHTEOUS REMNANT
PRESERVES THE PROMISE OF HIS BLESSING UPON HIS PEOPLE.**

**[When sin disrupts creation, God will judge,
but not without demonstrating grace to the faithful.]**

- I. The character of God demands that He judge sin, (6:5-7, 11-13).
- II. The righteous/blameless believer finds favor (grace) before God, (6:8-10).
- III. The righteous/blameless believer escapes judgment through obedience, (6:14-22).
- IV. The obedience of one preserves a remnant from God's judgment of all the wicked, (7:1-24).
- V. The delivered remnant, by waiting and worship, receives God's promise of protection, (8:1-22).
- VI. The believing remnant must both produce and protect life in the renewed creation, (9:1-7).

VII. God's promise never to destroy the earth by flood should encourage the remnant to faithfulness, (9:8-17).

(Pedagogical . . . What it means to us NOW)
To escape God's certain judgment of sinners . . .
BEGIN/DEVELOP YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.
(Compare with Proverbs 10:25)

- I. God will, without any doubt judge sinners, (6:5-7, 11-13).
- II. Only the righteous/blameless will find favor (grace), (6:8-9; Proverbs 10:25).
 - A. God provides a means of escape for the obedient, (6:14-22).
 - B. Just as the obedience of Noah saved a remnant, so the obedience of Jesus saves those who trust in Him, (7:1-24; Romans 5:19).
 - C. The believing remnant waits for final deliverance and worships, (8:1-22).
 - D. The believing remnant hopes in God to bless His people, (9:1-17).
- III. **BEGIN/DEVELOP YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, (6:8-9).**
 - A. Become righteous/blameless by trusting Jesus for salvation, (Romans 3:21-24).
 - B. Walk with God in obedience to deliver others to salvation, (Matthew 5:16).