



Genesis: The Book That Started It All
Weekly Devotionals | October 5, 2025

OPEN with prayer.

Find a quiet place where you can set aside distractions. Ask the Lord to meet you in His Word. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you wisdom and insight as you reflect on this sobering but hope-filled account of God's judgment and mercy.

READ Genesis 10–11.

This week's reading is an illustration of a narrative technique sometimes found in Genesis. Chapter 10, a depiction of the descendants of Noah and how they spread out across the earth after the flood, is followed by chapter 11, which backtracks to tell us *why* people began to spread out – a thwarted building project that occurred in the plain of Shinar known as the tower of Babel. The tower of Babel account is followed by a repetition/expansion of the genealogy of one of Noah's sons, Shem. Special focus is directed toward the line of Shem because the storyline of Genesis is shifting from a wide-angle view to a narrower focus on one of Shem's descendants, a man named Abram. The rest of Genesis will focus on Abram (later called Abraham) and his family.

- Read Genesis 1:28 and Genesis 9:7. What command does God give in these verses? How does Genesis 11:1-9 show humanity resisting or obeying that command?

God granted Adam and Eve (and their descendants) the right to rule over creation on His behalf in Genesis 1:28. In Genesis 11:1-9, the descendants of Noah want the glory and fame of reigning over creation without the obligations and responsibilities of ruling. They don't spread out and do the work God has given them. In other words, they want the perks without the responsibilities. They also fail to acknowledge who is actually in charge.

- Spend some time meditating on your own life. What are the areas of responsibility God has given you?
- Invite the Holy Spirit to show you any areas where you seek to enjoy the perks without fulfilling the responsibilities.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal to you places in your life where you see yourself as the ultimate authority – where you fail to acknowledge who is actually in charge.

The builders of the Tower sin in two primary ways: they don't *obey* God, and they don't *worship* God.

- How does God respond to their disobedience and lack of proper worship?
- Reflect on your life. Do you see times when God disrupted your plans in the midst of your disobedience?
- In what ways has He drawn your attention back to right worship of Him?

READ Acts 1:8.

- What are the similarities and differences between Genesis 1:28/Genesis 9:7 and Acts 1:8?
- How does Acts 1:8 (see also Matthew 28:18-20) add to or shift the Genesis 1:28 command for those of us who follow Jesus?
- In what ways does your life reflect obedience to these commands?

READ ACTS 2:1-12.

Acts 2 recounts what is sometimes called the “birthday” of the Church. Crowds of Jews from all over the known world were gathered in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost. In Acts 2:14-36, Peter preaches the post-resurrection sermon and thousands of people hear and accept the Gospel and are baptized.

- In what ways does Acts 2:1-12 interact with Genesis 11:1-9?
- How does the presence of the Holy Spirit in your own life equip you to live into the responsibilities God has placed on you as a follower of Jesus?
- What is something you can do to increase your attentiveness to the work and power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

PRAY

Spend some time listening to what God wants to show you from these texts. Look back through the questions and linger on any places the Spirit prompts you to reflect, confess, or ask for help. Praise Him for His merciful willingness to disrupt our sinful behaviors and draw our attention back to Him.