

One Story Week 2: Babel and Abraham

Big Idea: The bible has one story: God's plan of redemption and salvation through Jesus.

Intro: We are launching into a series that Cru is doing this semester called One Story. We will be looking at different snapshots in the story of the bible to put it together. Whether you are familiar with the whole bible or have never picked it up, come along with us as we learn it together. You might not understand all aspects of the story we are looking at and that's ok. The goal is to get glimpses of God's salvation plan at work throughout scripture.

On Thursday Ryan shared about Adam and Eve, that God made mankind to enjoy relationship with him, and to rule the world in peace. However, it was not very long before mankind took things into their own hands, betrayed God and introduced sin and chaos into the world. God promises a wounded savior would come one day. We will fast forward a little bit to Genesis 11 & 12 to contrast the stories of the tower of Babel and a man named Abram.

Launch: Have you ever worked on a group project in class that went wrong? What

Read Genesis 11:1-9

- **What do the people unite to do? What are their motivations?** *To build a tower to the top of heaven. So they could make a name for themselves. So they would not be scattered.*
- **How might the outcome have been dangerous if the people were successful in building their tower?** (follow up could be: what have the results been in human history when people build up just to make a name for themselves?) *They would have continued life without God. They would fight one another trying to be great without God.*
- **Today, what are ways we refuse to trust God's commands and build names for ourselves?**
- **How does God respond? What were his motivations?** *He confuses their language and disperses them. Because they would have had uncontained power without God. Make sure people see this is done both in justice and mercy. Man would have destroyed himself if the plan succeeded.*

Read Genesis 12:1-9

Man has continued to fail and get more and more wicked. But God has not given up on mankind and continues his rescue plan through a man named Abram. Abram was an average man who grew up in a pagan family.

- **What 3 promises does God make to Abram?** *To make his name great, a great nation from him, make him a blessing.*
- **What do you think God's motivations were? How are these different from the people's motivations in Babel?** *To bless all the families of the earth, to spread throughout the earth, to have his people be with him.*
- **To be blessed means to be set apart, dedicated to God or to have his divine favor. Why does mankind need to be blessed by God? We will destroy ourselves apart from him.**
- **How would you summarize how God is helping or rescuing his people in this section?//What do you learn about who God is in this passage?**

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It's all about Jesus

Read Acts 3:25-26 This is a part of a speech one of Jesus' followers gave after he died and was risen.

- **How does Peter relate the promise God made Abraham to these people?** *They are the descendents of Abraham, the result of God's promise to him*
- **Jesus was a descendant of Abraham. How did God bless the world through Him?**

Apply

- **The people of Babel did not trust God and tried to be great apart from God. Where do you try and be impressive apart from God? Do you feel that truly satisfies?**
- **Despite your rebellion apart from God, he loves you and wants to bless you and began a rescue plan thousands of years ago so you could live with Him again. How does that feel like good news to you personally? Or do you find that hard to believe?**
- **Abram lived by faith that God would do what he said. Where do you need faith right now? Where is it hard to trust God?**