

Dgroup Discussion Guide for September 6, 2015

Don't Be a Selfie

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11:1-9

Following the events of the Great Flood and subsequent covenant, Genesis 9:1 says that **God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."** However, instead of obeying His commands, Noah's descendants—desiring to be amongst themselves—chose instead to settle in the land of Shinar. They chose to be selfish and focus only on themselves.

They stopped looking to God, and instead focused on the building. While there is nothing wrong with their construction, what displeased God was the motive behind it. In addition to staying together in one place, according to Genesis 11:4, **They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."** Not only did they want to literally reach God, but they also desired to be recognized for their efforts. In addition to being selfish, they also displayed pride.

It's dangerous to be selfish and prideful. Proverbs 16:18 says, **Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.** Take Lucifer's case, for example; because of his desire to put himself on the same level as God (Isaiah 14:14), God threw him out of heaven.

When people set themselves against the sovereign God, God always wins in the end. James 4:6 says, **But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."** We are called not to be a #selfie (selfish), but an others-oriented people.

This truth is evident in similar stories in the Bible. For example, Jonah—whom God commanded to warn the people of Nineveh to turn from their wicked ways—decided to flee from the presence of the Lord. Because of his disobedience, God caused him to be swallowed by a big fish (Jonah 1-3). Likewise, when King Saul did not completely heed instructions left by Samuel on God's behalf, his kingdom did not endure (1 Samuel 13).

In contrast, we have stories of people like David, who humbled himself after realizing that he had sinned against the Lord by bedding Bathsheba and killing off her husband. The Lord gave him grace by forgiving his sin and sparing him from death (2 Samuel 12:1-13).

In the case of Noah's descendants, God still showed them grace in spite of their disobedience by confusing their tongues. If He hadn't intervened, the people would have continued disobeying.

What does this have to do with us today? 2 Timothy 3:2-5 says, **For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of**

God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power. God is warning us today, because what was going on in the time of Noah is happening today.





To combat that, we are called to walk humbly with God. According to Micah 6:8, **He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

We look to the life of Jesus Christ in order to truly know what it means to walk humbly with the Lord. Though Jesus is the Son of God, He did not see Himself above the commands of His Father. He could have chosen not to sacrifice Himself on the cross for our sins, but he did so out of obedience and humility.

If we really understand the grace of God, we will do everything in our power to respond to Him in obedience. For us to be able to be humble, we have to kill pride and empty ourselves of ourselves. Only then can the Holy Spirit fill us. After all, how can you fill something that is already filled with something else?

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Do you have a tower of babel in your life? What is your source of pride or selfishness? Is there a commandment that God has given that you are running away from? What is it that is holding you back from following God’s commandments?</p>
	<p>Family: What are the lessons that you as a family can learn from the story of the tower of Babel? Talk about the difference of selfishness and selflessness. How different are they? Which one does God want us to become? How do you practice Philippians 2:1-11 intentionally in your life?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Today, God is asking us to “Go and Make Disciples”. Are you obeying God’s commands or running away from it? Are you actively participating in God’s redemptive plan of salvation?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: What are you doing to be a part of God’s saving hand? How do you share to others God’s covenant of new beginnings? How are you using your time, talent and treasure for the glory of God?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.