



LEADER'S GUIDE – November 3

During November, we will be going through a sermon series called **His Story**. We will walk through the overarching and unifying story of the Bible, tracking what God set out to do, how He is accomplishing it, and how He will finish it. What we will learn is that God didn't put you on this earth for you to figure out your own story, but for you to find your place within **His Story**.

This week, we are going to look at the beginning of the Bible and see what God set out to do and where we fit into his story. As we go through Genesis 3, Genesis 11, and Genesis 12 today, we will see that we can't truly know our story until we know His Story.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Genesis 1:28

Genesis 3:1-6

Genesis 11:1-8

Genesis 12:1-3

Read Genesis 3:1-6. In this passage, Adam and Eve listened to Satan's deceptive words and questioned God's goodness. By disobeying God's command, they introduced sin into the world. Take a few moments and share what you observe in the text and answer the questions below.

- 1.) What stands out to you in this text and why?**
- 2.) How did Adam and Eve question God's goodness?** The idea that was planted was this: are you sure God is good? Are you sure God is loving? That tree over there looks really good to eat, doesn't it. If God said not to eat of that tree, he's holding out on you. And if he's holding out on you, are you sure you can trust him. **In what ways have you questioned God's goodness?** My marriage has been hard for a long time and doesn't seem to be getting any better: is God really good? I haven't been able to shake this disease for years and I don't know what to do anymore: is God really good? We lost a child: is God really good?

Read Genesis 1:28 and 11:1-8. In Chapter 1 you see God's plan for mankind was for them to scatter across the world and saturate it with his love and goodness. In Chapter 11, you see mankind go against this command and begin to build a tower for themselves. Take a few moments and share what you observe in the text and answer the questions below.

- 1.) What was the motivation for building the tower?** It was for their own glory. It was "to make a name for ourselves" **In what ways did this go against God's plan for them?** Man was never created to make their name great, but to make God's name great. And in chapter 1, we see that God's plan for mankind was for them to scatter, not gather.
- 2.) What would be examples of towers that you build for yourself?** Where are you focused on making your name great, not God's? Your career, your marriage, your friendships, your finances, etc.

Read Genesis 12:1-3. In Genesis 12, we see how God plans to spread his glory across all the world. Take a few moments and share what you observe in this text and answer the questions below.

- 1.) What did God promise to give Abraham?** He would bless him and make him a great nation. **What was the purpose for this gift?** He was blessed to be a blessing. It was to spread God's glory across the world, not Abraham's.
- 2.) What principles can we take for our life today?** Whatever blessings we receive in life are for the purpose of blessing others so that they may see God's goodness and love through it.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

We can't truly know our story until we know His Story. On Sunday, Steve and Andrew shared an example of the different characters in a movie. There are the main characters and support/background characters. When we realize that God is the main character, we realize that our life's purpose is to shine the spotlight on him, not ourselves. When we begin to question God's goodness and "build towers" to make a name for ourselves, we confuse our roles and move from the background to the spotlight. A great question to ask yourself is, *"In this decision, am I more concerned about God's story or my own?"* Take a moment and discuss an area in your life where you need to ask this question.

- **Where in your life are you more focused on your own story instead of God's story?**