

SERIES 1: IN THE BEGINNING

THE TOWER OF BABEL

1.5

TRUTH ABOUT GOD ///

God resists the proud and arrogant.

SERIES AIM

God was intentional about His creation and the purpose it would serve, and the same can be said for the way He created you and me. God loves us, and He made us to thrive and live according to His perfect will.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Genesis 11:1-9;
Proverbs 16:18-19;
James 4:6-10

LESSON BIG IDEA

I will worship only the one true God.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN? ///

Sincere worship is birthed in humility! Many people seem to interpret humility as having a low opinion of yourself or always talking down about yourself. That is actually false humility. Humility is not about beating yourself up; it is about lifting Jesus higher. We lift Jesus higher through our worship. We can't literally lift Him higher because He is above everything. Instead, we lift Him higher in our own minds. When I worship, I take myself off the throne of my life and put Jesus there instead.

This form of worship—offered from a spirit of humility—is only worship if it is directed at the right Person. We must make a commitment today: “I will worship only the one true God.” There is no other God but Jesus, and He alone is worthy of our praise.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way that you feel comfortable. We suggest that you use a journal, your notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// Have you ever done something weird to look impressive?

/// How did you feel afterward?

/// Do you think it is better to just be authentic and real?

/// What do you think people want more: someone impressive or someone real?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ///

THE FALL OF THE PROUD

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

Read Genesis 11:3-4.

And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Pride and arrogance spelled trouble for the builders of the Tower of Babel before they even laid the first brick. God once again saw wickedness in the hearts and minds of these people as they elevated themselves above God. So often we are distracted by life, and we lose sight of God and the important role He plays in every moment. Sometimes we can be so blind that we begin to doubt that every good and perfect thing is from God. Instead we think it is our doing. Regardless of the situation, good or bad, God remains high and lifted up. He is who keeps us from harm, He blesses us, and He saves us from our despair. In all things, God is exalted, and no tower anyone builds will ever elevate anyone or anything above our Savior Jesus.

Jr. High /// Think about the things that you have put in front of God before.

Sr. High /// Think about some things that you have prioritized over God and church. How did that affect your relationship with God?

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Read Genesis 9:1.

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

From the very beginning, God laid out His plan for humanity, and in His love He asked that we be fruitful and multiply. God is looking for every opportunity to bless His children and see them prosper. Even when it feels like it is raining on your head because of life's pain, God is in the midst of that pain, working things for the good of His children. When you're lost and hopeless, He is there. When you are broken and depressed, He is there. When you have no one else to turn to, He is there to pick you up and hold you tight in loving arms. He is your deliverance. He is your blessing, and He is your perfect promise. In Jesus you have a future of prosperity and plenty. Take every chance you get to go out and be fruitful with every gift and opportunity God has given you because He cares for you.

Jr. High /// Make a list of some things God has saved you from.

Sr. High /// God has delivered you from sin. Make a list of some things God has delivered you from and a list of some things that He is still working on you about.

THE FALL OF THE PROUD

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Read Genesis 11:5–9.

And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

What an incredible testament to the willpower of humanity! It's really a shame that all of their work was for evil, right? God saw these men and women building this incredible tower. The truth of this story is that we can't learn much from such stubborn and wicked people, but what we can learn from is God's amazement at their unity. When we are unified, even with another believer, our ability to serve the kingdom of God is amplified ten times that of what we could do on our own. We need the body of believers. We need each other to stand firm in our faith and do the work of God. We need others to support us when we fall. We need other believers to build us up when the world wants to tear us down. If we as the church can learn to work better together, nothing can stop us from changing the world and building God's kingdom in the name of Jesus. There is great power in our unity!

Jr. High /// Talk to a friend or mentor and make a plan to keep each other accountable in your praying, reading, and studying.

Sr. High /// Talk to a friend or mentor and make a plan to keep each other accountable in your praying, reading, and studying.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

Read Proverbs 16:18–19.

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

This is another one of those awesome gems the Bible gives us, and, surprise, it's all about being humble! So, what is the big deal about humility? Well, for starters, Jesus was humble, and the greatest men and women of the Bible were humble too. We can see a pattern appearing here. God is looking for the willing, the talented, the faithful, but even more than that, He is looking for the humble—people unimpressed with the fame and fortune of the world. When we can't be distracted or persuaded by money, possessions, or fame, the devil tends to have a tough time getting our attention. Through humility, the greatest of God's characteristics are made obvious in us. Those characteristics are how we love and care for the lost and our willingness to reach those the world turns away. In humility, God sees an empty vessel and a young man or woman willing to do anything. You should give it a try. I think you'll find that being humble suits you.

Jr. High /// What are some areas of ministry you have not been involved in but would be willing to try?

Sr. High /// Talk to your pastor about areas of need within the church. Ask where you can step out in faith and be used by God to serve the church.

THE FALL OF THE PROUD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

Read James 4:6.

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Here we find yet another reason to be humble. You see, humility isn't something you can fake, especially with God. He knows your thoughts and feelings, and when we are dishonest with God or others, God takes note of that too. Humility comes from the very depths of our hearts, and when we are humble, there is nothing that can rob us of the purity of that feeling. God is generous to the lowly and the humble, and He is clear here that grace is a gift available for those who demand it the least. When we are humble before God, especially when we make mistakes, His grace will be quick to cover us and redeem us from our bad decisions. If we are truly humble before God, He will heal our hearts and our minds and help us in every other place we need to fix.

Jr. High /// Ask God to forgive you and fix your heart and mind. Make a plan to fast some things this week to put your focus on God.

Sr. High /// Talk to your teacher or youth pastor about organizing a joint fast this week.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

Read James 4:7-10.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

Now this passage seems heavy, like a lot is going on here. It might seem a little difficult to wrap your head around, but let's break it down. The Bible is telling us that in every decision, we have two options: give in to the devil or rely on God. The devil is smart and tricky, and he is intentional about messing with you until you feel you just can't take anymore. Our only response should be to resist him and seek God. If we build our faith (with good habits of prayer, fasting, and studying) on the foundation God has put in place, then resistance shouldn't be a problem. But if we are undisciplined, it may not be as easy as it sounds. We desperately need to build our lives on Jesus and understand the reasons why we believe and follow Him because the devil is always trying to crumble our faith by putting doubt in our minds. Seek God first, and He will help you to withstand whatever the devil can throw at you.

Jr. High /// Make a list of some things you have doubted about yourself and your beliefs. Make a point to pray about these things and ask God to help you find answers.

Sr. High /// Think about some areas in your life in which the devil has caused you to doubt your identity in Jesus. Ask yourself how you can educate yourself and build a better foundation to defend your faith.

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