



Small Group Discussion Questions
"All Tower, No Power"
Pastor Scott Farmer
July 5/6, 2014

Opening Remarks:

Timothy Keller points out that "God invented cities. When he finally develops the new heavens and the new earth, when he puts the world into the shape it ought to be in - it's going to be a city." "Jesus will live downtown on the center square" [Why God Made Cities]. But sin has twisted cities from God's good purposes and design into places of violence instead of protection, pain instead of community, and idolatry instead of spiritual searching.

The people of Babel held three deep longings represented by a tower, a name, and a city. This story has held the imagination of people throughout the millennia because we share the same deep hopes and fears. Their story continues today in relationships in families, cultures, languages, nations and religions throughout the whole world.

This story is told for our benefit. We are expected to read, understand, and respond in light of the gospel which meets our deepest longings.

Warm it up

- 1] Who do you know who has built something really great and made a name for himself/herself?

Talk it over

- 2] What hopes and fears marked the culture and people of Babel?

- 3] What benefits come from having "one language and a common speech"? What challenges come from having "confusion" instead?

- 4] Why do you suppose God determined it wise to confuse and scatter the people over all the earth?

- 5] Revelation 21-22 reports that the world to come will be an urban world. The redemption drama that began in a garden will end in a city, the new Jerusalem. Heaven's citizens will be urbanites! How do these themes of scattering and gathering come together?

Work it out

- 6] Name many of the benefits of living in cities. Name some of the challenges.

- 7] Do you think God's confusing and scattering was a curse or an act of grace? Why?

- 8] How are people today trying to defy God by making towers to reach heaven? Make a name for themselves? Prevent scattering?

- 9] How can these deep human longings be fulfilled in obedience to God and line with God's purpose, instead of defying God?
- 10] Personalize this story. To what extent do you feel these longings and fears? How are you addressing them? What place does God have in your life? What are your next steps in worshiping and following God's purpose for your life?

Pray it through

Pray together holding before God each longing and fear raised in this episode!