

START HERE • GOD GIVES



ANNOUNCEMENTS: Leader, please make these available to your group.

### **WOMENS CHRISTMAS EVENT**

*This is a great opportunity to invite someone you know from work, your neighborhood, or family member to attend an elegant evening with a tremendous talent. If you haven't heard Anna Golden please look her up on Spotify. This concert event begins with assorted appetizers and dessert. Women's Ministry is going all out to create a beautiful space to socialize and celebrate the greatest gift of the season. Jesus. ADORE HIM begins at 6pm and tickets cost \$25. And MEN - we need help with volunteers. You'll find a sign up button on the same page.*





## Week 16 | The Tower of Secularism | Genesis 11:1-9

### LIFE WITHOUT GOD IS LIKE AN UNSHARPENED PENCIL IT HAS NO POINT - BILLY GRAHAM

On August 7th, 1961, 26-year-old Major Gherman Titov became the second Soviet cosmonaut to successfully orbit the earth and return to safety. Later, speaking at the World's Fair and enjoying his moment of glory, he sarcastically let it be known that on his journey into space he hadn't seen God. On Christmas Eve 1968, three American astronauts were the first to go around the dark side of the moon away from the earth. Having fired their rockets on Apollo 8, they were homeward bound and got a glimpse of the earth from an angle that no one had ever seen before. In the throes of this awe-inspiring moment, they opened the pages of the Bible to the book of Genesis and read for the world to hear, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The contrast is astounding and is undeniably explained by the differences between a society based on secularism and one based on Judeo/Christian principles. Babel was the first real attempt to secularize society by eliminating God from the picture, an ancient effort that is manifesting itself in modern America. Not only do we need to be wary of the secular mindset, but we also need to pray for a great spiritual awakening among Americans today.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



#### **PRAY** (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to pray for the people of our nation and ask God for a great spiritual awakening.



#### **REFLECT** (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Derek mentioned a cycle in life that progresses like this: we need God, we turn to God, we receive the blessings of God, we turn away from God. This cycle is all too real. As God comes through for us, we begin to rely on material blessings and our own perceived abilities.

**Can you think of a time in the Bible where this happened to Israel? Has this happened to you? How can you get out of or avoid this dangerous cycle?**

**THE RESOURCES YOU HAVE ARE A GIFT FROM GOD TO GENERATE GRATITUDE FOR HIM NOT INDEPENDENCE FROM HIM.**

2. The people of Babel apparently didn't want to do things Yahweh's way and be morally responsible to Him, so they creatively devised their own religion based in human effort.

**Are there aspects of Biblical Christianity that you don't like or are uncomfortable with? What are they? Be specific. How have you handled those issues and does that differ from how you think God would want you to handle them?**

**EVERY MAN-MADE RELIGION IS BASED IN HUMAN EFFORT AND PHILOSOPHY AND NOT IN DIVINE REVELATION.**

3. God is not overwhelmed when nations reject Him. He is in control, sitting on His throne, bringing His kingdom to this earth as His people focus on fulfilling the Great Commission.

**How can that reality bring you peace and purpose in these times of confusion?**

**Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh.**

**Psalm 2:1-4**



## **WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE**

**Matthew 4:17**

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."



## **REACH** (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, be focused on bringing God's eternal kingdom to the people that He has placed in your life. Creatively use everything at your disposal to shine for Christ this Thanksgiving and let your gratitude for God be known.

**Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear how God used you in meaningful ways to shine for Him.**