



*“At the first pinnacle of humanity’s rebellion, humans were proud of their new invention, the brick. With it they conspired to build a tower, to reach the heights of heaven on their own, without the God who created them. In His mercy, the Lord confused the languages of man, and scattered him across the globe. In Acts 2, the empowering Holy Spirit undoes Babel, and reunites humanity under the Kingdom of Heaven. Join us this week as we look at these two, seemingly disconnected stories and how chaos came into unity through Christ.”*

## INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

Speaking in tongues- if you grew up in the church, how did the church you grew up in address this particular gift?

## MEMORY VERSE:

**1 Corinthians 13:1**

*“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”*

## SCRIPTURE READING:

**1 Corinthians 14:4-17**

*“4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.*

*6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? 7 If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? 8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? 9 So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. 10 There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. 12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.*

*13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.*

16 Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider[b] say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

### **Genesis 11:1-9**

“Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.” 8 So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused[a] the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Pastor CJ talked about how the birth of the church at Pentecost was an undoing of the work God did at the Tower of Babel. If this is true, what significance does that hold for humanity?
2. Uniting humanity through the power of the Holy Spirit allows for unfettered access to the Father through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the work of the Son. Just on a practical level it appears that the explosion of the church in the first century was due largely because of this work of the Holy Spirit. How did His empowerment help grow the church?
3. Biblically, where do you land with speaking in tongues? Is it a modern-day gift or only a former one? How can you be sure? In light of your conclusion, how do you maintain unity with those who believe differently than you do?

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Whether you believe that speaking in tongues is a modern phenomenon, the Holy Spirit is still clearly working in our world. How do you see Him working?
2. How is the Holy Spirit workin in you, on you recently?
3. We are able to do what God calls us to do because of His empowerment through His Spirit. Spend some time thanking Him for the gift of Himself through His Spirit.

### **CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:**

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.