Passage: Genesis 11:1-9

This is the story of the tower of Babel. It explains how Babylon (the first city) got its name as well as the origin of diverse languages and the scattering of the nations across the earth. The Babel incident is another universal judgement on mankind to curb the rampant spread of sin. Here we see the folly of mankind in his weakness raising up a proud head before God, only to find that all of their plans come to nothing.

Personal Application

Q Why do you think so many people turn their back on God or live as if He doesn't exist?

Q Read Genesis 11:1-9. In v1-4, what are the signs that mankind has become proud? What's wrong with this?

Q What does v6 mean? Why is it a bad thing?

Q What is God's solution in v7-9? How do we see the kindness of God in this?

Q Should we be for or against a “New World Order” where the world reunites to become one nation with one government? Why does this story suggest that it cannot work?

Q What will be the answer to finally reuniting the nations? (see Ephesians 2:13-22 and Revelation 7:9-10)
Genesis chapters 10 and 11 make the connection between Noah and Abraham. These genealogies can seem a little monotonous, but remind us that the purpose of Old Testament is to unfold the story of God redeeming mankind from sin. Adam and Eve brought condemnation into the world, but immediately we are promised a redeemer, the seed of the woman who would crush the Serpent’s head.

And so the theme of “seed” or family trees is really important – it reminds us that God’s promises are still on track.

Q What is the most unlikely or dramatic conversion story you have heard?

Q Read Joshua 24:2. What was Abraham’s religion like before God called him?

Q Read Exodus 20:4-5. What is the reason that God gives for why He hates idolatry?

Q Read 1 John 2:15-26 and 1 John 5:21. What is idolatry? How is it still a problem for us today? What are some of the idols that we are likely to worship?

Q Read Acts 7:2-4. What was it that broke Abram free from his idols? How does God still do the same for us today?