



Winter 2010

SMALL GROUP SERIES:

# Let There Be Light

Genesis: The Story  
Begins

Discussion Guide  
Week #6

## Genesis Series: Quarantine Sin

### Genesis 11:1-9 (TNIV)

1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that they were building. 6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

### John 9:2-11 (TNIV)

2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. 8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." 10 "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. 11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

## **Facilitator's Guide**

### **Facilitator's Tips**

Here are some practical tips to help your group to be focus on transformation:

#### **Learn to Love**

We need to follow up our words of love with action.

1 John 4:7–16 | *Just as a child might quickly say "I'm sorry" after hitting another child to avoid punishment, our words can also be hollow. We must learn that love includes both words and actions.*

#### **Learn to Give Your Life Away**

To get closer to others, we need to say yes to giving others our time, authenticity, help, and the permission to be helped.

Acts 2:42–47; 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 | *Bible knowledge, in itself, can sometimes cause more harm than good, such as pride and a judgmental attitude. Real growth comes from putting into practice what we understand.*

#### **Learn to Say No**

Sometimes saying no is the most Christ-like thing you can do.

Acts 4:1–33; Galatians 2:11–14; 2 Timothy 2:22–25; 3:1–6 | *Many people think that saying no is self-centered or even un-Christian. God wants us to say no to things that are destructive and damaging to people and relationships, including us.*

#### **Learn to Say Please**

Saying please is about asking the right way.

Matthew 5:5; 6:5–8; 7:7–12 | *Many of us have not learned how to ask others for what we need from them. Or we resort to control tactics such as arguing, criticizing, shaming, or shutting-down instead of asking for what we need to resolve the conflict.*

#### **Learn to Say Thank You**

Those two words can salvage attitudes.

Luke 17:11–19; Acts 2:38; Romans 5:6–8; 10:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:11–18 | *It is important for us to regularly express our love and appreciation to those we love. Gratitude is at the heart of the commitment to follow Christ.*

-Adapted from *SmallGroups.com*

## **Series Break-time!**

There will be a one-week break in the Genesis series. The next sermon, on the weekend of Feb. 13/14, will be entitled, "Making Disciples Jesus' Way" and delivered by a guest preacher, Doug Greenwald, of *Preserving Bible Times*. There will be no small group discussion guide that week.

Suggestion: take time during this "break" week to attend the **Ash Wednesday Worship Service, Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. Come together as a group! Join in worship together as you prepare your hearts for Easter.

## **START IT**

- What are the different ways you've disciplined your kids?
- What were your punishments when you were a kid?

## **STUDY IT**

- Read the Genesis scripture. What do the people do? Make observations.
- Why do people settle, generally speaking? Why might these people settle?
- Why do they build a tower, according to the text?
- What is wrong with building a tower? What's wrong with making a name for yourself?
- Why does God respond as he does? What does he do?
- What impact has the scattering had, both positive and negative?
- Read the passage from John. Why do the disciples ask that question about sin?
- What does Jesus say? How does Jesus alter their perspective about sin?
- What does Jesus do for the man? What does this say about Jesus' role?
- What does the healing symbolize about Jesus?

## **LIVE IT**

- How do you expect God to deal with your sins?
- How would you like God to deal with your sins?
- What's difficult about receiving compassion and grace?
- Who in your life needs you to respond differently to their sin?

## **PRAY IT**

- To become compassionate people who accept God's acceptance of us.
- To become compassionate people who accept others as God accepts us.