



“Let’s Make a Name for Ourselves”

Genesis 11:1-9
February 16, 2020

“... 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.”

— 1 Cor. 14:11

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”

— Genesis 9:1

Then they said, “... let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

— Genesis 11:4

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

— Matthew 28:19

“Let’s hear a laugh for the man of the world, who thinks he can make things work; Tried to build a New Jerusalem, and ended up with New York.”

— Bruce Cockburn, “Laughter”

(with apologies to any New Yorkers out there)

1. The whole earth (Gen. 11:1)
2. Bricks and bitumen (Gen. 11:3)
3. A tower that reaches to the heavens (Gen. 11:4, Gen. 9:1, Dan. 4:4-37, Is. 11:9)
4. And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” (Acts 2:12)
5. Challenge to the Church (Mt. 28:18-20, Mk. 16:15, Acts 1:8)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

What are your thoughts on the story of the Tower of Babel? Do you think of the lessons as relevant to today?

In what ways were the builders of the Tower of Babel disobedient to God’s commands? In other words, why was God so strong about preventing them from building the Tower?

Do you agree that there is a similar purpose between God’s command to “fill the earth” and Jesus’ command to “make disciples of all nations (peoples)”? How should we, as the Church, respond?

There are 6 ways that each of us can get involved in “filling the earth” with the knowledge of the glory of God:

- **Going** (which we think about first),
 - **Praying** (which all of us can do),
 - **Learning** (which helps us to do all the others on this list),
 - **Sending** (many ways in which we make it possible for others to go),
 - **Welcoming** (such as ECC) and
 - **Mobilizing** (getting others interested and involved in missions).
- Which do you feel God is calling you to? What will you do to explore how to do this better? You may want to check out www.omf.org/us/6-ways or talk with someone involved in missions.