



**...beginnings**  
the gospel according to Genesis

## Genesis 10-11

# the patience of God

*This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.*

### PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

*The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.*

### in the week leading up to growth group pray & read through Genesis 10-11

What stands out to you from these readings?

Are you puzzled about anything in these readings?

What do you **feel, think** or what might you **do** in response to these readings?

**a taste of theology pre-reading:** In *Salvation Begins* – reading Genesis today (Aquila Press, 2000) Andrew Reid says: As we have seen, constructing and possessing buildings is always a risky venture for the people of God. God's people are like all people on earth. Although they should pursue God's purposes, they sometimes slip back into wanting what ordinary people want: security and tenure. The evidence for this can often be seen in our attitude to careers, money relationships, families, church buildings, and the like. This shift away from centring on God and his purpose and becoming inward looking is often slow and subtle. Nevertheless, it is very real, and the result is that the people of God don't do what God brought us together to do. We fail to fill the earth and subdue it through the preaching of Christ crucified. Instead of going to all the nations, we stay at home and focus on building comfortable houses, careers, families, and church buildings. It is not that these things are wrong in themselves, but simply that we give too much importance to them. Faced by such a shift of focus, we ask for judgment from the God who would drive us out so as to restore us to true unity in his purposes. Persecution was needed to drive the early Christians out of Jerusalem into all the world. May this not be necessary for us!

Reflect and pray for your unity to God's purposes for you and his world.

## WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time

What goals are you patiently achieving?

### 1. about the nations | read Genesis 10

▸ Discuss any stand-outs or questions from this chapter. Why is the last verse significant in the story of Genesis so far? (see Gen 1.28; 9.7)

▸ read Genesis 11.10-26: What do you notice about the life-spans here? (see 6.1) Nothing significant happens over 9 generations so why do you think Shem's descendents are singled out a second time? (2 clues: what's different in the genealogies? see also 9.24-27)

### 2. the tower of Babel (Babylon) | read Genesis 11.1-9

▸ What were people trying to achieve when they had a common language? Why is this bad? Think specifically in terms of Genesis so far with people made in the image of God and God's purpose for them. (11.1-4)

▸ What is the Lord's solution? What is the Lord's purpose in doing this? (11.5-9)

### 3. to the nations | Acts 2; 2 Peter 3

▸ read Acts 2.1-24: Why might you see Pentecost as a reversal of Babel? Whose name is being made great here?

▸ Read 2 Peter 3.1-16: What are Peter's 2 goals when he writes? (v1-2) What does Peter help you recall?

▸ Why did God not wipe everyone out in judgement when they rebelled again at Babel? Will God be patient forever? What is the goal of God's patience now?

▸ What implications does the patience of God have for who you are and what you do?

**PRAY!**