

**DANGER SIGNS
GENESIS 11:1-9**

LESSON PREP

This week, we are introduced to the culture that emerged following Noah's repopulation of the earth. What we find is a people whose attitude of arrogance and rebellion toward God makes them the object of his divine intervention. As we look at their way of thinking, your students will consider how this passage sheds light on similar attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors that can creep into our own lives and place us in opposition to God and his plans.

PRE LG TEXT MESSAGE QUESTIONS

Got an independent streak? If you've ever said, "I can do it on my own!" then our topic tonight is for you!

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Romans 12:3 or
1 John 2:15

10N1 FOLLOWUP

Ask the following:

What kind of child/teenager would your parents say you were? Compliant/Detached/Rebellious? Has that carried over to your relationship with God? If so, how can you allow God to transform you to where He desires you to be?

INTRODUCTION

We are going to begin our time together with a look back on each of our lives. I want you to draw (with a pen or pencil) a road. This road represents your life. On this road I want you to draw three or four danger signs that you would create to serve as a warning that there was danger ahead, if you could go back and relive the past. Give a few examples from your own life like:

- Warning: Avoid the flirt in your freshman composition class
- Warning: Be careful how much confidence you put in that popular science teacher who mocks your Christian faith

Distribute paper and pens or pencils, and give time to make a road map.

- What did you learn by looking back on your danger signs and hearing from others?
- Could you have foreseen the dangers before you found yourself in them? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 11:1-9 together as a group.

1. God sees the danger of arrogance—"I know what is best."

- How did the people of this city display arrogance? What are some ways their arrogance parallels arrogance we see in our own culture today?
- Why does God consider the attitude of "I know what is best" a danger?
- Most of us would agree that unity is a good thing. In this situation, how does the people's collective unity become destructive?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *It is never a good sign for us when we start thinking that we know better than God. Arrogance makes us feel superior to God. It causes us to forget our dependence on God. And that can lead to another dangerous attitude in our lives—one that the people of this city displayed.*

2. God sees the danger of independence—"I can do it on my own."

- How did the people of this city display independence from God?
- Why do you think God considers the attitude of "I can do it on my own" a danger?
- The people's efforts to reach God end up unfinished, according to verse 8. How is that a picture of us when we try to reach God through our efforts and on our own terms?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *A life of faith is a life of dependence on God. True faith means relying on God for protection, provision, and purpose. When we fall into the trap of independence, we're essentially saying we don't need God—in fact, we're saying we ARE God because we can meet all of our own needs! Beyond their independence, the people of this city wanted to be known. Let's look at this final danger and God's ultimate verdict.*

3. God sees the danger of status—"I want my name to be great."

- Why would God consider status a danger?
- Look at verse 3. What did they use to make their name great? What about this might be ironic or seem absurd to you?
- Where did these people seem to be finding their sense of identity? How might Genesis 1:26-27 speak to this in your own life?
- What was God's conclusion in Genesis 11:6? Why did God see it as necessary to intervene?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *The people at the city of Babel are not that different from people today. They were seeking to find identity and fame through their achievements, and we can easily fall into the same trap. God, however, instills within us value by the nature of who we are. Fortunately, when we help to make God's name great, we turn the spotlight in the direction it belongs: toward God.*

APPLICATION

What could rebellion against God look like in your life? Is there an instruction of God that you have a tendency to ignore? How has God graciously intervened to save you from your own junk?