VIDEO:
Presenter: William Power

Prepare to View Video
This segment examines the results when human beings attempt to live their lives without God

View Video

Summary of video content:
- The story of the tower sets out the consequences of humanity's struggle to find meaningful existence on its own terms.
- The humans elect to trust themselves and their own choices.
- God will act in the election of Abram and Sarai.
- Sarai can have no children.
- The choice of Abram and Sarai is the beginning of a motif that runs throughout the Bible.
- The Bible tells the story of God's attempt to reassemble the fragments and to break down the barriers to communication.

Discuss After Viewing Video
Why do persons seek meaning without God? What are the results? What does it mean to you that God chose ordinary people to carry out God's purposes? Read aloud Genesis 11:1-9 and Acts 2:5-12. What does this mean?

QUESTIONS FROM THE CLASS:
1. What is Genesis 6:1-4 about? It seems like it is suppose to be some kind of transition, but started in the middle of a paragraph.

2. What does 6:11 mean by "the earth was corrupt?" Does it mean the people only or that people had somehow corrupted nature/environment?

3. 8:1 states that God "remembered" Noah. Does that mean He had forgotten about Noah for a while? If so, does God forget about us at times? It seems that way sometimes.

4. What are we to understand about the similarities between the combined J and P flood stories and the Mesopotamian flood stories found in the Atrahasis and Gilgamesh?

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL
Emphases in this lesson are pride, alienation, and covenant. Consider pride as a violation of the first commandment. Ask this question: In what sense is pride a violation of the first commandment? Talk about written responses to the question at the top of study manual page 20.
Explore the idea that all humankind is reflected in the tower builders, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood. Work in four groups, one story to a group. Refer to daily notes. Answer this question about each story: How is all humankind reflected in this story? Discuss this question also: How is all humankind also reflected in Abraham and Sarah in their role here?

To get the various family lines in Genesis and Exodus in mind, form groups to study and compare the genealogies of Shem (Genesis 11:10-32); Noah's sons (10); Adam (5); Cain (4:17-24). Answer these questions: What kinds of information are provided in the genealogy? Who is emphasized, and why? What is the purpose of the genealogy in its place? What connections can you make on the basis of this information?

**BREAK**

**ENCOUNTER THE WORD**
Scripture selection: Genesis 9:1-17 Ask someone to read aloud Genesis 9:1-17. Work in pairs to identify major ideas in the passage. Then have persons work individually to put the passage into their own words, writing their version as though they were God addressing Noah. Hear the paraphrases.

**INTO THE WORLD**
Respond to the questions in the study manual under "Into the World" one at a time. Some of the questions might be discussed in the whole group; others, discussed in pairs.

Read aloud "Our Human Condition." Talk in pairs about how this is true of us and make changes where it is not true. Remember that "Our Human Condition," Scripture, and ministry are always linked. Find a partner and read to each other the message from God's Word that will shape their ministry in the coming week and describe intended responses.

**CLOSING AND PRAYER**