

LIFE'S TOXIC GAME OF FAME & SHAME

WEEK TWO: A NAME FOR MYSELF

SERIES BIG IDEA:

We were not built for fame or shame, but to glorify God and to be satisfied in Him forever.

¹ Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar I 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; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 11:1-4 (NIV)

Babel had all of the elements to become great: a common fear, a unified representation, the innovation, communication, a shared and inspired vision, and a unified motivation.

Making a name for myself is the result of my sinfulness:

- **If I don't trust God, I won't want to glorify God.**
- **To make a name for myself is to make me God.**

Our sin is that we do not trust that making God's name great is good for us.

It takes faith to trust that making God's name great is what is best for me.

⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people 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.

Genesis 11:5-9 (NIV)

- **The pursuit of fame is cursed.**
- **God opposes those who strive to make any name great but His.**
- **All things are possible for a unified people united with God.**

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...

Genesis 12:1-4 (NIV)

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

Hebrews 11:8-12 (NIV)

Abraham fully trusted God and lived to make God's name great.

- **I can attempt to make my name great or trust that making God's name great is what is good and best for me.**
- **God opposes my efforts to make a name for myself, but He blesses my efforts that are motivated to glorify Jesus.**

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TEACHING BIG IDEA:

Making Jesus' name great is what is good and best for me.

¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 1:12-13 (NIV)

I don't have to promote myself because I'm a child of God. He has given me His name.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

Nothing is impossible for a people united together to make the name of Jesus great.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

It is common for people to pursue making a name for themselves. We all have a desire to be recognized, admired, or known for something. In this pursuit to build our own brand and make our own name, we are exhausting ourselves to be known.

Some descendents of Noah's son Ham went to extra efforts to make a name for themselves. They ended up building a tower to make their mark. Instead of building a tower to reach heaven, they ended up opposing the God of heaven and earth.

God then called Abraham to trust Him. God has a plan to make His own name great. Abraham fully trusted God and lived to make God's name great. When we trust God, we will live to glorify God and make His name great. When we don't believe in God, we will live to make our name great—make ourselves God.

Trusting in Jesus makes us children of God. We are significant and free to live to make Jesus' name great. Nothing will stop a people united to do this.

TALK-IT-OVER:

What efforts have you seen people go to as they attempt to build their own brand?

How do you see people making God's name great?

What do you need to do to glorify God's name more in your life?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Psalm 86:11-13

Day 2) Romans 12:2-4

Day 3) Habakkuk 2:3-5

Day 4) Psalm 18:1-2, 25-30

Day 5) Proverbs 3:5-15

Day 6) Psalm 40:1-5; Luke 24:5-7