FOUNDATIONS · COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY · GENESIS 10

# One Story, One Savior

*A guided conversation from the November 15, 2026 sermon by James Drake*

## SUMMARY

Week ten of Foundations lands on a chapter most of us skim — seventy hard-to-pronounce names, the sons of Noah fanning out into the nations. James Drake admitted he nearly skipped it, then found the gospel running right through it. His first point was blunt: there is only one race, the human race. When someone asked whether Christchurch is a multiracial church, James said no — "we only have one race." Every nation on earth traces back to one family stepping off one ark, each person bearing the image of God, and that is why a biblical worldview leaves no place to justify racism. The curse some have hung on these names was a lie; the dignity God hands every image-bearer is the truth.

But Genesis 10 is not only about where we came from — it is a map of where the gospel is going. James read the nations spreading out and heard a mission: God wants His people filling the world He loves, not hiding from it. The danger comes in the next chapter's preview — Nimrod and the builders who, instead of going out, cluster together to feel safe and "make a name for themselves." James warned that we make the same mistake whenever we build our own name and wait for the world to come to us, when God has something better: a seat at the table so the whole world might come to know Him.

Then James traced the turn. What fractured at Babel — one language confused into many, the nations scattered — the Spirit reversed at Pentecost, when those same divided tongues became the very way the gospel reached every nation at once. He followed it to a desert road, where Philip left a revival to climb into the chariot of an Ethiopian eunuch, an outsider by every measure, who could never have children. That one outsider's conversion, James said, traces to the revival still sweeping Africa — a continent that went from 30 million Christians a century ago to 300 million today. Isaiah 54 had promised it: "you who are barren will one day have many children."

The whole message came down to one phrase: make a seat at the table for one more. James told of a packed 1934 tent revival where an usher chased two teenage boys out the door — "Come back. We'll make a seat for you at the table" — and one of them was Billy Graham. Then he turned the question on the room: in Miami, the whole world is already here, so who is your one more — the person you will intentionally pursue, invite, and engage so they hear the truth of this book? Genesis 10 tells how the nations were divided; Acts 2 how they are unified in the gospel; Revelation 7 how one day every tongue, tribe, and nation will stand before the throne.

## PRAYER OPENING PRAYER

*Father, You made every nation from one family and set each person in it bearing Your image. Forgive us for the people we overlook, the ones we quietly decide are not our family, the comfort we build while the world You love waits outside. As we open this chapter of names, open our eyes to the gospel running through it, and give us the courage to make room at the table for one more. Amen.*

## START ICE BREAKER

**James joked that whenever a form asks him to check a box for "race," if there's a blank line he just writes "human." When have you felt squeezed into a box that didn't really capture who you are — and who finally made you feel you belonged?**

## SCRIPTURE KEY SCRIPTURES

### GENESIS 10:32 · ESV

*Genesis 10:32 (ESV) These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.*

### HEBREWS 11:7 · ESV

*Hebrews 11:7 (ESV) By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

### ACTS 1:8 · ESV

*Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

### ACTS 8:35 · ESV

*Acts 8:35 (ESV) Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.*

### REVELATION 7:9 · ESV

*Revelation 7:9 (ESV) After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

## DISCUSS DISCUSSION

### 01 ONLY ONE RACE

Read Genesis 10:32. When someone asked James whether Christchurch is a multiracial church, he answered no — "we only have one race. It's the human race." Every nation traces back to one family off one ark, each person made in God's image, which is why he said a biblical worldview leaves no room to justify racism. Who is the person you find it hardest to see as family — and what would change in how you treat them if you really believed they carry God's image?

### 02 WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING TO BE KNOWN?

James warned that instead of going out as God commanded, the builders clustered together to feel safe and began to "make a name for themselves" — and said we make the same mistake whenever we live for our own glory and wait for the world to come to us. They build the tower so they will not be scattered and so they can "make a name for ourselves." What are you building right now that is really about being known?

### 03 NOT DISQUALIFIED

Read Hebrews 11:7. Scripture never tidies Noah up — the man who built the ark by faith later planted a vineyard, got drunk, and lay exposed — yet Hebrews still lists him among the faithful, credited with righteousness that came by trust, not by a clean record. James, an Army chaplain, has seen people wrecked by what they have witnessed, and his point was that broken people are not disqualified people. What failure have you been treating as the thing that rules you out — and what would it look like to trust God with your next step anyway?

### 04 SENT, NOT SETTLED

Read Acts 1:8. James said Pentecost was the reversal of Babel — what judgment once scattered into many tongues, the Spirit now used to carry the gospel to every nation at once. But he named the catch honestly: the early church heard "go to the ends of the earth" and mostly stayed home, hoping the world would come to them. Where have you been waiting for people to come to you, when Jesus has actually sent you to them?

### 05 THE OUTSIDER GOD REFUSED TO OVERLOOK

Read Acts 8:35. Philip left a revival to climb into the chariot of an Ethiopian eunuch — a foreigner, an outsider who could never have children — and God sent him to that one man. James pointed to Isaiah's promise that "you who are barren will one day have many children," and noted the revival sweeping Africa today, 300 million strong, traces back to that one outsider's conversion. Who have you quietly written off as too far outside — and how might God be sending you straight to them?

### 06 YOUR ONE MORE

James told of a packed 1934 tent revival where an usher chased two boys out the door and said, "Come back. We'll make a seat for you at the table" — and one of them was Billy Graham. Then he said that in Miami the whole world is already here, so we don't have to go around the world to reach it. Who is your one more that you are intentionally going to pursue, invite, and engage with so they can hear the beauty and truth of this book?

### 07 ONE STORY, NOT TEN

Chapter 10 lists nation after nation, each with its own language, and chapter 11 explains how that happened. Looking back over these ten weeks, where has this been one story rather than ten?

## 08 A PICTURE OF THE END

Read Revelation 7:9. James ended by saying Genesis 10 tells how the nations were divided, Acts 2 how they are unified in the gospel, and Revelation 7 how one day a multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language will stand before the throne. If that crowd is where all of this is heading, how should the certainty of that day shape who you make room for this week?

## APPLY THIS WEEK

Pick one. Do it before you meet again.

1. **Name your one more** Write down a single name — not "the nations," a person. The coworker who eats alone, the relative everyone has given up on, the new face no one greeted. Pursue, invite, or engage them once this week, and come back ready to say what happened.
2. **Honor an image-bearer you'd rather overlook** Pick the person you are most tempted to treat as "other." Do one concrete thing that treats them as made in God's image: a real conversation, a kind word, a prayer by name. Watch what remembering whose image they carry does to the way you speak.
3. **Stop waiting for them to come to you** Find one place this week where you have been hoping people will show up on their own. Take a single step toward them instead — a text, a door held open, an invitation — the way the Spirit sends, not the way Babel clustered.

Come back next week ready to say what happened, not what you intended.

## REMEMBER REMEMBER

- There is only one race — the human race. Every nation traces back to one family, each person bears God's image, and that leaves no room to justify looking down on anyone.
- Broken people are not disqualified people. Noah failed and was still counted faithful; God works through people still in progress, so your next step of trust matters more than your record.
- Pentecost reversed Babel. What divided the nations, the Spirit turned into the very means of reaching them — and that same Spirit sends you, rather than settling you.
- Make a seat at the table for one more. In Miami the whole world is already here; the question is simply who your one more will be.

***Genesis 10 tells how the nations were divided, Acts 2 how they are unified in the gospel, and Revelation 7 how one day every tongue, tribe, and nation will stand before the throne — so the question for a faith family on mission is simple: who is your one more?***

## PRAYER CLOSING PRAYER

*Father, thank You that we are one family, made from one man, each of us carrying Your image. Thank You that You reverse what we break — that the Spirit You poured out at Pentecost still sends ordinary people down desert roads to the outsiders You have prepared. Forgive us for building our own name and waiting for the world to come to us. Put a name on our hearts this week, and give us the courage to make room at the table for one more. Amen.*


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