

# GREAT STORIES FROM

## THE *Old Testament*

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## Why Do We Go to Church?

2007 Mar 26-29

For spiritual growth and guidance	23%
Keeps me grounded/inspired	20%
It's my faith	15%
To worship God	15%
The fellowship of others	13%
Believe in God/Believe in religion	12%
Brought up that way/A family value/Tradition	12%
Other	4%
No reason in particular	1%
No opinion	.5%

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### Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. <sup>2</sup>As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup>They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

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### Genesis 11

<sup>4</sup>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." <sup>5</sup>But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

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### Genesis 11

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

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### Genesis 11

<sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> 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.

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### Relying on ourselves...

Leads to:

1. **Striving**
2. **Stress**
3. **Lack of Success**

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### Galatians 3:10

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

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*Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned.*

*Grace is the enabling gift of God not to sin.*

*Grace is power, not just pardon.*

John Piper

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## God's Grace

Leads to:

1. A Course of Action

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## Romans 8:1-3

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,<sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.<sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

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## God's Grace

Leads to:

1. A Course of Action
2. A Cross of Love

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## God's Grace

Leads to:

1. A Course of Action
2. A Cross of Love
3. A Crown of Life

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## James 1:12

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

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**Mark 8:36**

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

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*"I have now given everything I own to my children. There is one more thing I wish I could give them and that is Christ. Because if they have everything I gave them and don't have Christ, they have nothing."*

*Patrick Henry*

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*Religion attempts to use behavior to change our hearts.*

*Grace transforms our heart to change behavior.*

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