

### DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

The Word of God is a guidebook for how to live the Christian life. The student should realize that obeying God's Word will keep us from sin and its consequences.

### LESSON DEFINITIONS

**Babel:** to make sounds with your mouth that have no meaning

**Confound:** to confuse or mix up

**Nimrod:** Ham's grandson who tried to build a big city that would reach up to God

**Curse:** to announce misfortune or doom on someone

**Replenish:** to fill

**Scatter:** to cause to be spread out

**TEACHER NOTE:** In the first lesson, we learned that creation worshipping the Creator is God's ultimate right and His greatest desire. We saw that God's delight in our worship is seen in Revelation 5:9 providing us with a glimpse of the rather colorful variety of redeemed gathered around the throne. We observed that in the selection of Abraham, God chose a people for His name through which all nations of the world would be blessed. The lesson explained the use of the word nations as it is used in the Bible as people groups rather than geographical boundaries as depicted on a map. Finally, we were challenged, yet encouraged by the enormity of the task in the hands of a very capable God.

The focus of this lesson is on sin and its cure. We will observe the path of a son who had equal opportunity to obey God's command, yet chose to withdraw himself from the protection of God-given limitations. In this lesson, we will follow the awful progression of a people who chose to defy God and thus build a city based on pride and wicked imaginations. Ultimately, we will discover the selection of God's chosen people, Israel, in establishing a People for His Name.

## Why National Bible Publishing Month?

*National Bible Publishing Month* is a unique opportunity for local churches and believers just like you to be involved with Bible publishing at the ground level. With your involvement, sufficient amounts of paper will be provided in order to produce Bibles and New Testaments for missionaries serving in places where Bibles are difficult or impossible to obtain.

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**NATIONAL  
BIBLE  
PUBLISHING  
MONTH**

CHILD TEACHER GUIDE | LESSON 2

# The Sin of the Nations





# THE SIN OF THE NATIONS

## CHILDREN’S EXTRA: SUGGESTED ACTIVITY



### PREPARATION:

Bring an umbrella to class. Ask the class what it is and discuss its use. Discuss the protection an umbrella gives from the rain. Ask, “Where should I be if I want to be protected from the rain?” Open the umbrella and stand off to the side. Talk about how the umbrella is of no use if it’s left home in the closet or in the trunk of your car on a rainy day. In order to be under the protection of the umbrella, we must open it and stand under it.

### APPLICATION:

It is the same with the Word of God. Hold the Bible over your head and talk about being “under” God’s Word to receive its protection. We must be in line with Scripture in order to receive its benefits. When we stray from God’s Word, we lose the protection that comes with the promises.

## INTRODUCTION

Last week we learned that all nations/people groups have four things in common: Lineage, Language, Laws, and Land. We also learned that, today, the earth has over 7 billion people living on it. About 4,000 years ago, God started His chosen nation, Israel, with a man named Abraham. But what about the other nations on earth? Where did they begin?

## LESSON

Over the thousands of years since Noah and the flood, nations have continued to split off from each other and regroup into new nations due to things such as the need to find food and to search for more land. Remember, God’s plan was for Noah and his family to scatter out all over the earth, but one of Noah’s great grandsons, Nimrod, had another plan. He wanted to build a great city with a tower and keep all his nation/family together. It’s in Genesis 11 that we learn about the biggest nation-splitter of them all.

It all happened at the Tower of Babel. You know, babel, like when you hear a baby trying to talk, but he doesn’t know any real words. Remember, an important part of being a nation is that everyone speaks the same language. Also, remember that Noah’s family all spoke the same language, and, at one time, they were the only nation on earth.

One of Noah’s sons was Ham. He sinned against God in Genesis Chapter 9, and a curse came upon his family because of it.

**TEACHER NOTE:** Ham did not take God’s Word seriously. There was evidence that Noah taught his children what the Word of God said. Not only do we read that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, but we also read that two of his sons knew to do right in the same situation. Ham’s neglect of God’s Word caused him to take a playful approach toward sin.

**READ:** 2 Peter 2:5

**ASK:** What does God call Noah? (*A preacher of righteousness*)

**READ:** Genesis 9:20-25

**ASK:** In verse 23, what shows us that Ham was taught the right thing to do, even though he didn’t do it? (*His brothers did what was right.*)

**ASK:** How was Ham punished for his sin? (*He was cursed.*)

**TEACHER NOTE:** Our sin rarely affects us alone. The old saying, “No man is an island unto himself” is especially true when man sins. Family members, friends, our peers, and often future generations are greatly affected by sinful choices. When Ham neglected God’s Law, it passed on to his offspring and progressed to a new level of disobedience. We can clearly see the progression of what happened and the problems it caused.

**READ:** Genesis 9:1

**ASK:** What did God tell Noah and his sons to do? (*replenish [fill] the earth.*)

Ham’s family continued to make bad decisions. In fact, his grandson, Nimrod, tried to build a big city with a tower that could reach up to heaven.

**READ:** Genesis 11:2-4

**ASK:** Why did the people want to build the city and tower? (*so they wouldn’t be scattered*)

God did not want everyone to stay together in one city. They were supposed to spread out around the world.

This is where the language part comes in. The Bible says that God confused their languages. That means that right in the middle of building their tower, all of a sudden, only certain people could understand certain people. Everyone else sounded like they were babel-ing like babies! Before too long, everyone who spoke the same language gathered together and traveled to new lands to start new nations with people like themselves.

Many of these new nations continued to make bad decisions that were against God. They even had a bad influence on nations that were not part of the Tower of Babel.

**TEACHER NOTE:** Nimrod and his followers chose not to place their faith in what God said; instead, their confidence was placed in their own thoughts. The rejection of God’s Word resulted in the reliance upon man’s imagination.

Here, we find mankind, on the road of no return, poised to plunge o the high cliff of humanism and self-serving pursuits, when just in time, God intervenes by confounding the languages. When God confounded the languages, it was not a reaction of sabotage, but rather a response of mercy. God’s intervention took place because man’s imagination was ready to take him beyond the point of reconciliation. They would have soon become a civilization with an unrestrained imagination, but, praise the LORD, “*where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*”

## CONCLUSION

Several years later, God found a faithful man named Abraham, and, as we learned last week, he is the one who God promised to use to start the holy nation of Israel. It is through Israel that the Savior, Jesus, came to bless all nations.

As we think back on this story from the Bible, we can see what happened when Ham chose to neglect and disobey God’s Word. How about you? Do you read and obey the Bible?

**READ:** Psalm 119:11

Reading, thinking about, and obeying God’s Word will keep us from doing wrong things. Next week we’ll talk about all of those nations/people groups that are scattered all over the earth today.

## KEY VERSES

Genesis 9:1, 20-25; 11:1-8, Psalm 119:11