

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

God loves all nations of the world. The student should understand that God will use all sorts of ways to reach them, and each of us should be willing to be a part of His plan.

LESSON DEFINITIONS

Confound: to confuse or mix up.

Mission: a special and important task.

Scatter: to cause to be spread out.

Shem, Ham, and Japeth: Noah's sons who were commanded to spread out, to scatter to other places in the world.

Unreached People Groups: people groups/nations who are still waiting for the good news of the Gospel; they are less than 2% evangelized.

10/40 Window: an imaginary rectangle on a map showing where most of the unreached people groups live in the world.

TEACHER NOTE: Did the confounding of the languages and scattering the people really happen? The answer is, "YES!" This event really did happen. For a Christian who has had a Bible all his life and has placed full faith and trust in it, the question seems silly; however, for the lost humanistic society, this story is hard for them to swallow. Carbon dating, fossils, and evolutionary theories are the modern gauges in which "truth" is measured. The scale of human reasoning and logic outweigh the intervention of a supernatural one-time intervention by a Holy God. Though there is a common consensus among historians of a division of languages and resulting migration, it is nevertheless attributed to long spans of time, having neither a defined plan nor an intelligent process.

Apart from God's Word, man has no clue about his ethnic or linguistic origins. It can be amusing to pick up one of many secular writings and read man's struggle to explain and defend his theories and hypothesis that ultimately puzzles those brilliant men of science, yet a young child can pick up God's Word and read the answer and declare it with confidence.

The focus of this lesson is on God's scattering of the nations. Genesis 11:19 details this historical and pivotal event. In fact, the Bible is the only true source for historic information about the scattering of the nations and the instantaneous confounding of language. While the Bible records *how* the language was confounded and the nations were subsequently scattered, we may wonder if it also explains *why* it occurred. As we study further, we will learn God's ultimate design behind scattering the nations.

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NATIONAL
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CHILD TEACHER GUIDE | LESSON 3

The Scattering of the Nations



THE SCATTERING OF THE NATIONS

CHILDREN’S EXTRA: SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

PREPARATION: Place one chair in the class apart from the others, perhaps have it face the wall in isolation. Discuss with students that when children misbehave, they are sometimes separated from the group. At home, they might be sent to their room or away from the dinner table. At school, they may have to sit alone or even in the corner for a while. Discuss why this happens and what causes the separation. Explain that the separation is an effort to correct bad behavior so the child can be restored (brought back) with an improved attitude.



APPLICATION: God has had to do that with entire nations. He has had to separate them or scatter them with the purpose of restoring them unto Himself.

INTRODUCTION

We now know that another name for a nation is a people group. The past two weeks of lessons have taught us how all the different nations came from Noah’s family after the flood and how the nation of Israel was chosen by God to bring His blessings to the whole world. The biggest blessing is, of course, His Son, Jesus. Jesus Christ died as a perfect sacrifice to save anyone from any nation if they will only put their trust in Him.

LESSON

In Genesis Chapter 9, God blessed Noah for his faithfulness in building the Ark. God told Noah’s sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth that they would have really big families, and they did. Billions and billions of their family members have lived on the Earth in the last 4,000 or so years. In fact, you are one of them!

Ever since God divided up the people by confusing their languages at the Tower of Babel, the nations have grown and scattered all around the globe.

But why did God divide the nations and scatter them? Was He just punishing Nimrod and his followers for disobeying Him and building the Tower and city of Babel, or did God have a greater purpose in mind?

TEACHER NOTE: Throughout Scripture, God uses the method of scattering for the purpose of restoration. God destroyed the earth as a result of man’s sin by a catastrophic flood. Shortly after making the promise with Noah that He would not destroy the earth again with a ood, we find man back to his perverse ways. Instead of pronouncing a death sentence on the people, God in His mercy, provides a way that would restore them by His Grace. God confounded the languages and scattered them abroad so that one day He could restore them to Himself.

The following verses demonstrate God’s mercy in scattering and allowing a remnant to remain:

Psalm 59:11; Ezekiel 6:8, 11:16, 20:23-41, 28:25, 30:26, 34:30, 36:23-38; Matthew 9:36; Mark 14:27; John 11:52; Acts 8:1-4, 11:19; James 1:1; I Peter 1:1

The best way to find out is to see how God treated Israel, His chosen people, when they disobeyed Him.

READ: Ezekiel 36:17-18

ASK: What did Israel do that made God angry? (*defiled [make foul] the land by what they did, shed blood, and worshipped false idols*)

READ: Ezekiel 36:19

ASK: What did God do to Israel? (*scattered them through other countries*)

READ: Ezekiel 36:22

ASK: Why did God punish Israel? (*for His name’s [character; how He is known] sake*)

READ: Ezekiel 36:24, 27-28

ASK: What happened when God brought Israel back to their own land?

(*they obeyed God’s Word*)

READ: Ezekiel 36:23, 36

ASK: What was the result of Israel being scattered and then returned to their own land? (*the heathen [unsaved people] knew the Lord is God.*)

So, does God scatter His people even if they haven’t disobeyed Him?

READ: Acts 8:1

ASK: What did God use to scatter the church (Christians)? (*persecution*)

READ: Acts 8:4

ASK: What happened when the church was scattered? (*they went everywhere telling others about Jesus*)

It is easy to see that God loves the whole world so much, He sends His children everywhere to tell unsaved people about Him.

CONCLUSION

Here are some really big numbers to think about:

- There were originally 70 different people groups.
- Today, there are over 24,000 people groups/nations made up of over seven billion people!
- About 6,000 people groups/nations have never heard about Jesus and Heaven.
- 97% of these people groups/nations live in an area known as the 10/40 Window.
- We call these unreached people groups.

That’s a whole lot of people on our planet who have never heard of Jesus, God’s love and forgiveness, or how they might go to Heaven some day when they die. This means that there is a lot of work to do to reach the almost three billion people who don’t have a Bible in their language or anyone to take it to them even if they did.

READ: Matthew 5:14-16

How is your light shining? Are you being a good testimony to your friends and neighbors? Are you telling others about Jesus?

Next week, we’ll learn how each one of us can be involved in this great mission of taking God’s Word to the nations.

KEY VERSES

Ezekiel 36:17-38, Acts 8:1-4, Matthew 5:14-16