

## KEY VERSES

Psalm 96:3-4, Revelation 5:9

## DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

God made all nations different on purpose. The student should understand that God wants to receive worship by all nations in all languages; as Christians, we can help that happen by loving all nations and taking the Gospel to them.

## LESSON DEFINITIONS

**Diverse:** different or various kinds of something

**Embrace:** to accept gladly and willingly

**Ethnos:** Greek word meaning groups of people, families, tribes, or clans

**Lineage:** direct descent from a particular ancestor; ancestry

**Nation:** a group of people having a common language, lineage, laws, and living in the same place

**TEACHER NOTE:** In Revelation 5:9, God allows us to see who will be gathered around His throne worshipping. This peek reveals a rather colorful and varied redeemed group “*from every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.*”

These lessons will take us from the structuring of the very first nations to God’s plan for all the nations. We will see how God selected Abraham to be His means of bringing the Gospel blessing to all the world. God chose a people for His name (Israel) and in blessing them, they in turn, blessed all nations.

These lessons give us a proper view of the word “nations” in the Bible and how that understanding this term allows us to see God’s plan in accomplishing worship as it is seen in Revelation 5:9. Our natural reaction is to shrink back at the enormity of the task, seeing a host of hurdles and obstacles. However, God, Himself, has no problem in accomplishing the task. It is His project and His desire to be worshipped by all nations. The might of our God in respect to the nations is clearly depicted in Isaiah 40:15, “*The nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance...*” How wonderful to know that the “obstacles” of language, distance, culture, even false religions are as dust in God’s hands! May these lessons challenge us to see a multicolored quilt of ethnic peoples all praising God in various tongues and giving Him glory in unified diversity.

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NATIONAL  
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CHILD TEACHER GUIDE | LESSON 1

# THE STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONS



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## CHILDREN’S EXTRA: SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

### PREPARATION:

Bring four or five items to class that are the same, yet different. Some ideas are: different colors of Play-Doh, various sizes and colors of bouncy balls or different kinds of cookies, etc. Discuss with your class how the objects are all the same; discuss how they are different, possibly listing them on a board. For example, if you use cookies, name the different types: sugar, chocolate chip, oatmeal etc. Explain how they are all cookies, yet each is unique. The one who made them determined what they would be and how they would taste.



### APPLICATION:

The world is full of people who are different. God made us that way on purpose. We are all created for His glory.

**READ:** Revelation 4:11

**ASK:** Who made all things? (*God*)

**READ:** Psalm 86:9

**ASK:** Who will worship God? (*All nations*)

When the Bible uses the word “nation” it is almost never talking about a map. Instead, it is talking about groups of people who have several things in common. So, when you hear the word “nation” in this lesson, think of people’s faces, not a map. Earth has over seven billion people alive today. Our planet is filled with all types of people living in very different places and doing different things. But where did all of these different people (nations) come from?

The answer is Noah. You may remember Noah, the man from the Bible who built the big boat to keep his family and all of the animals alive during the great flood. God saved Noah, his wife, and his three sons, and their wives.

Out of those eight people, our planet now has seven billion people! Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth had big families. God’s Word mentions this in Genesis Chapter 10:1-32.

*Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood. ... (verses 2-31 mention all of their names) ... These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.*

After the flood, God used Noah’s family to separate into different nations. But what makes a group of people to be a nation instead of just a group of people? Actually, they’re kind of the same thing. The word “nation” comes from a really old Greek word “*ethnos*” which means “group of people, family, clan, or tribe.” We call this a people group! Each nation/people group is important to God! When Jesus gave the Great Commission to the church in Matthew 28:19 and 20, He did not mean for any nations to be left out.

**READ:** Matthew 28:19-20

**ASK:** Who are we supposed to go tell about Jesus and God’s Word? (*All Nations*)

Any nation/people group will always have four things in common. You can remember them easily because they all start with the letter “L.”

1. Lineage – Everyone in a nation/people group has the same great, great, great, great, great, great, grandfather.
2. Language – The members of a certain people group/nation can talk to each other and be understood.
3. Laws – Everyone is taught what to do and what not to do so that everyone gets along.
4. Land – Your neighbors are always nearby instead of clear around the world.

**TEACHER NOTE:** “Any group of people recognizing themselves as having a common language, having common laws (written or unwritten), living on a defined area of land are a nation in the Biblical sense of the word.” (*Biblical Bible Translation*, 3rd edition. Turner, Charles)

A nation can be found within another nation. It’s best to think of faces, not maps when we hear the word nation. The Navajo Nation is in the United States, the Kurds of Eastern Europe have lived in many places. Often, entire nations

are in captivity or displaced because of wars or famines. The “Nation” of Israel was still a “nation” even when living in Babylon or Egypt. The country of Nepal has 341 known people groups/nations. The country of India is home to a staggering 3,237 people groups/nations. God purposely created many types of nations/people groups. They are all beautiful and different. God loves diversity (things that are different). Did you know there are over 20,000 species of butterflies in the world and more than 50,000 different shades of the color blue?

We should embrace and appreciate diversity because it does not let us think we are more important to God than other nations/people groups. How beautiful it must be to God’s ears to hear nations praise Him in so many different languages!

**READ:** Revelation 7:9-10

**ASK:** Who was praising God in these verses? (*A great multitude from all nations*)

Out of all the nations on Earth, God chose one very special nation who He would use to bless all of the other nations. That nation was Israel.

**READ:** Deuteronomy 14:2

**ASK:** Who chose Israel above all other nations? (*God*)

In the Bible, we can see how Israel became a nation, because God told us how they got their lineage, language, laws, and land. It all started with a man named Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21). God’s Son, Jesus, was born into the nation of Israel in order to be a blessing to all nations of the earth.

## CONCLUSION

God blessed Abraham to be a blessing. He, in turn, has also blessed us so we can be a blessing to others and tell them about Jesus.

**READ:** Psalm 96:3

**ASK:** What does this verse teach that we, as Christians, are supposed to do? (*Declare God’s wonders among all people.*)

The Bible says we were fearfully and wonderfully made. You were created with a unique purpose from the Creator. Are you fulfilling God’s purpose for your life? Next week, we’ll look at some of the other nations that came from Noah’s family.