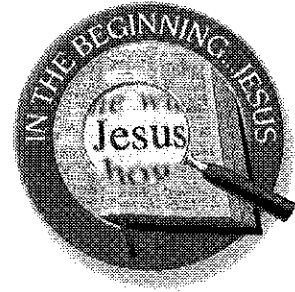


In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 7

God Scatters the Nations and Chooses One Man for Himself

Themes:

- After the flood, God commanded Noah and his sons to multiply and fill the earth.
- Man is sinful and is in rebellion against God.
- The people of Shinar thought they could oppose the one, true God.
- God alone is the Sovereign Ruler—no one can oppose Him and win.
- God chose one man in whom He would make a great nation to bless the world.

Scripture:

Genesis 9:1; 10:32; 11:1-8; 12:1-3; 2 Chronicles 20:6; Isaiah 40:15a, 22a

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:6 (and review verses 3-5)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - PUZZLE #1 (from previous lesson).
 - GOD—MAN visual (from previous lessons).
 - JESUS IS THE KEY visual (from previous lessons).
 - GOD'S JUDGMENT/GOD'S MERCY (from previous lesson).
 - FILL THE EARTH.
 - WE WILL DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT.
 - ABRAHAM.
 - Bible Clue Card # 8—Place the clue card in a grocery bag. Add strips of similarly sized pieces of paper to the bag (e.g., cut up copy paper or newspaper).
- Magnifying glass (for use in reading the clue card).
- Tray, crackers, and cheese slices—Place the crackers and cheese slices in separate containers.
- White board and markers.
- 8-10-foot rope—In the middle of the rope, tie a bright piece of ribbon.

Pre-Class Preparation:

- Choose a child or adult and prepare him for the illustration with the crackers and cheese slices. Tell him that when you instruct him to fill the tray with crackers and cheese slices, you want him to begin stacking them in one tall pile in the center of the tray.
- Prepare an adult for the tug-of-war illustration. Make sure that he understands that he must win the first contest but lose the second.

Lesson

Display PUZZLE #1 (the one ark) from the previous lesson and quickly ask the following questions:

*Does anyone remember how many people were saved on the ark? Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives. Eight people in all. Were any other people left living on earth? [No.] Why not? [Because God had destroyed them all in the flood.] What kind of people were the people that God destroyed? Were they Cain-like people or Abel-like people? [Cain-like.] They did not trust God, and God was right to punish them. **Display** the **GOD'S JUDGMENT** sign. What about Noah; was he a sinner? [Yes.] Why didn't God destroy Noah and his family? Flip over the sign to reveal **GOD'S MERCY**. What is God's mercy? [His kindness to undeserving sinners.] Noah trusted God and did things God's way. God made one way for him to escape the flood—by trusting God and doing things God's way.*

Point out that after the flood was over and Noah and his family left the ark, God gave Noah a special sign to show that He would never again flood the whole earth. What was it? [A rainbow (**Genesis 9:16**).] God also had a special command for Noah and his sons.

Have the children turn to **Genesis 9:1** and choose a child to read it:

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."

What does this verse mean?

Illustration: **Display** the empty tray and the containers of crackers and cheese slices. Have the child, who was prepared beforehand, come up front. Tell him that you want him to fill the tray with crackers and cheese slices. (He should begin to stack them all in one tall stack in the center.)

Is he doing what I instructed him to do? What should he have done?

Have the child take down the stack and begin spreading the cheese and crackers on the tray. While the child is finishing this, continue with the lesson.

Point out that God's command to Noah and his sons was to have more and more children so that they would fill the earth—spreading out and moving out all over the earth, just as [child's name] is spreading the crackers and cheese to fill the tray.

Display the **GOD SAYS: FILL THE EARTH** visual:

So, is that what Noah and his sons did? Look at Genesis 10. This chapter gives the names of Noah's son's children—the children born to Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and their many descendants.

Read **Genesis 10:32**:

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.

It finally seems as if things are back to the way they should be. Everything seems to be okay now—the flood is over, the wicked people have been destroyed, and now the people who are left are having children and spreading out over the whole world. But is that the way God saw His world?

Choose children to read **Genesis 11:1-4**:

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

Ask: How many languages did the people on earth speak during this time? [One.] Do you think this would be a good thing or a bad thing? [Allow a few brief responses.]

In verse 2 it says that the people found a plain in which to settle. What is a plain? [A large piece of flat ground.] On a white board or large piece of paper, draw a line horizontally across the board.

What kind of a tower did they want to build? [They wanted a tower that would reach to the heavens.] On the white board, draw a few clouds in the upper horizon. Next, quickly draw several levels of the tower.

Why did they want to build this tower? [They wanted to make a great name for themselves—they wanted to be famous, and they wanted to stay together and not spread out over the whole earth.]

*Is anything wrong with what they are doing? Is what they are doing okay with God? **Display** the **GOD SAYS: FILL THE EARTH** visual again. Will their plan work?*

Illustration: Display the rope. Explain to the children that you are going to have a special contest. Have one of the adult teachers come up to the front (preferably a large man) and hand him one end of the rope. Next, choose a child to come up and hold the other end of the rope. Have the adult and the child assume positions in order to have a tug-of-war contest. You will stand in the middle, behind the tie that signifies the middle of the rope. When you give the signal, the two opponents will pull in opposite directions, trying to move the tie to one side or the other.

Ask: Before we begin, let's see if you can predict who will win. Everyone who thinks [child's name] will win, raise your hand. Everyone who thinks Mr. [man's name] will win, raise your hand.

Signal the contest to begin. When it is over, ask: Was that too easy for Mr. [man's name]? Why? How about if we give [child's name] some help. Let's get more people up here to help [child's name] pull on his side. If there are a lot of us working together, we should be able to win.

Choose more children and adults to hold the rope with the child. (**Important:** Choose enough children and/or adults so that they will be sure to win this time. And be sure that the lone adult knows ahead of time that he should lose the second contest.) Before you begin the contest again, ask:

Now, who thinks Mr. [man's name] will win? Who thinks that [child's name] and his team will win? Signal the contest to begin.

Point out that the result of the second contest was not surprising. When all the children and adults teamed together, they were a lot stronger than the one adult.

*Comment: There are some things we cannot do by ourselves, but if we work together as a team with other people, we can get the job done. The people of Shinar thought that they could do the same thing. They thought that if they all worked together, they would be able to rebel against God and win. Then they could do things their own way and not obey God's command. Then they—not God—would be great and famous. **Display** the **WE WILL DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT** sign.*

Do you think that by teaming together to oppose God they could win?

Divide the class into two teams (e.g., boys and girls) and assign each group one of the following verses for a **Sword Drill**:

Isaiah 40:15a—*Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales.*

Isaiah 40:22a—*It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.*

These verses use special words to describe the strength and size of the nations and all the people in them. What words do these verses use? [A drop from a bucket, dust, and grasshoppers.] According to these verses, do you think that all the people of Shinar would be able to oppose God? Here is another verse. This verse describes the strength of God:

Read **2 Chronicles 20:6b**:

You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In Your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand You.

God alone is the Sovereign Ruler of all people and nations. No one is able to oppose Him and win—no matter how big and strong their team is. How did God show the people of Shinar that He alone was God?

Read **Genesis 11:5-8**:

And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.

*God had commanded them to fill the earth. (**Display** the **FILL THE EARTH** sign.) They thought they could decide things for themselves. (**Display** the **WE WILL DECIDE...** sign.) They thought they could win against God. But what did they find out? (**Display** the **GOD'S JUDGMENT** sign.)*

Point out that God alone is God. He will not allow sinful man to decide the story of the Bible. No matter how many sinful people or nations try to oppose Him, He will always win. God decided that He wanted His world to be filled with people and that they must be spread out over all the earth.

Is that the end of the story? God sent His judgment and scattered the people over the face of the earth, and then walked away and ignored them?

Display the grocery bag. Choose two children to come up to the front. Explain that you are going to pour the contents of the bag onto the table. Included among the contents is **Bible Clue Card #8**. Pour out the bag all over all table and, as quickly as possible, have the children search for the clue card. When they have found the card, have one of the children insert it behind the red paper of the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual to reveal:

*Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3
Clue under Window # 13*

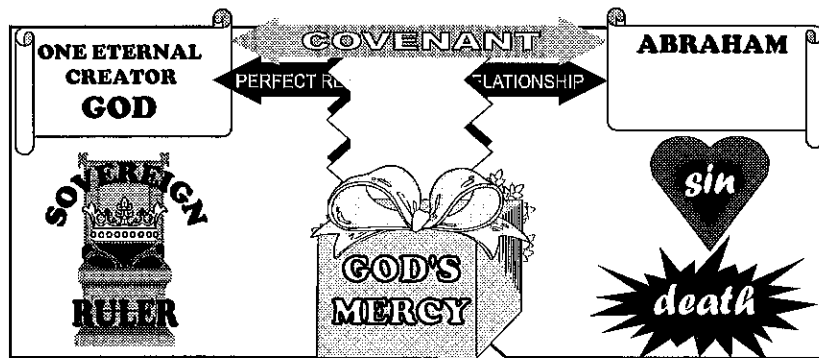
Read **Genesis 12:1-3**:

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Look at the paper that is scattered on the table. Have the children pretend that this represents the people and nations that God scattered across the earth in His judgment. Point out that God was not finished with His sinful people. The story of the Bible goes on. From all the scattered people, what did God do? Open Window #13 to reveal: **ABRAHAM—ONE MAN BLESSING THE WORLD**.

Explain that in God's judgment of sinful man, there was mercy. He chose one man from all the peoples that He had scattered and said that through this one man He would make a great nation that would be a blessing to the whole world! Lightly tape **ABRAHAM** over **MAN: GOD'S IMAGE BEARER** on the **GOD—MAN** visual. (This sign will also cover **ABEL** and **NOAH**.) Point out that in the next lesson you will learn more about this man and the special promise God made to him.

Note: Before the next lesson, carefully remove the tape from **ABRAHAM** and glue it in place. You may want to remove **ABEL** and **NOAH** first.



Application

- Have the children read **Genesis 9:1, 7**. Is this command easy to understand? Have the children read **Genesis 11:4**. Why did the people desire to disobey God? How were they like Adam and Eve? Review **Romans 1:21**. Ask: *After God had judged the world with a flood and had destroyed the wicked people, what was still a problem? What hadn't changed about the heart of men?* [They were still sinners.] *Did the flood solve the problem of sin? Why not?* [Noah and his family were still sinners. When they had children and filled the earth, all of those people were sinners also.]
- Have the children think of great skyscrapers they may have seen. Ask them why they think people want to build such tall buildings. *How could having a tall building make you famous? How could building a tall skyscraper draw attention to yourself? Could it make you equal to the greatness and fame of God? What can happen to skyscrapers? Will they last forever? What does this show us about the power of men?* Review the verses from **Isaiah 40:15a, 22a** and **2 Chronicles 20:6**. What words does God use to show that He is much more powerful and greater than people? What verse shows that no one or no group of people will ever be equal to God? What word do we often use that means we think we are great? [Pride.] Read and talk about **Proverbs 16:18-19**. *Do you ever struggle with pride? How do feelings of pride show we all are sinners? In what ways do we try to be "greater than God"? Will it work? Why not? Can you think of any Bible verses that can help you to remember the greatness of God and boast about Him and not about yourself?*
- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 7 in their workbooks. In the notebook, have them fill in the missing words to complete today's clue. Then, on their workbook page, have them write the words to complete the timeline. Ask: *Who is directing the timeline? Who is the One who decided the beginning of the story? Who decided what happened after Adam and Eve sinned? Who decided to have mercy on Abel? Who decided how many years would pass until the flood came? Who sent the flood to judge*

sinner? Who provided a way for Noah and his family to escape the flood? Who gave a promise never to destroy the earth with a flood again? Who allowed sinful people to multiply and fill the earth? Who showed the people of Shinar that He was the one, true God? Who chose Abram to be a blessing to the whole world? Who will decide what happens next on the timeline? Who is the story of the Bible about?

- How did God choose to judge the people of Shinar? Review **Genesis 11:7**. How would confusing their language cause them to stop building the tower? In verse 9, who is the One who dispersed them throughout the earth? Can the children think of some verses at the end of the Bible that show that some day people from all nations and peoples and languages will be included in one great nation? (**Revelation 7:9-10**.) Has this fully happened yet? In what ways is it happening right now?
- Remind the children that after God scattered the people across the earth, He did not walk away from His sinful people and simply ignore or destroy them. What Bible word did we learn that means God is kind to undeserving sinners? [Mercy.] Read **Genesis 12:1-3** again. Ask: *Do these verses tell us why God chose Abram? Was he smart? Strong? Good? Powerful? Rich? Then why did God choose him out of all the people on the earth? Does the Bible tell us? Why not? What does this tell us about God?* [Possible responses: God is free to choose whomever He wants. God doesn't have to explain His choices. God has the right to do whatever He wants to do.] Read and talk about **1 Corinthians 1:26-29**.
- Review **Genesis 12:1-3**. What command did God have for Abram? Would this be an easy command to obey or a hard command to obey? Can you tell us why it would be hard? Look at verse 2. What does it mean to "bless" someone? Why does God say He will make Abram's name great? Can you think of a way *you* have been blessed by Abram?

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