



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#33 – The Son's of Noah

Genesis 9:18-29

PICTURES NEEDED

- 33-1 Vineyard
- 33-2 Genealogy chart

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What did Noah do when he left the ark? How did God respond to his sacrifice? What was changed about the earth after the flood? What covenant did God establish with Noah? What was the sign of the covenant? What will eventually happen to the earth?
- **The Big Question Review:** What was God's promise to Noah after the flood? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Genesis 8:21-22 The earth will never again be destroyed by a flood.

("Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.) ²²"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

Who was on the ark with Noah? At the time of the flood, Noah had three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth who along with their wives and Noah's wife and all the animals were on the ark with him.

What did God tell them to do when they came off the ark? When they came off the ark God told them to be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. Since they were the only ones to survive the flood that means that all the people on the face of the earth are descended from Noah.

In the next lesson, we will look at the people of the earth and the civilizations that arose after Noah but in this lesson, we will learn about Noah's sons and his lineage. The Bible relates a not-so-nice story about Noah and his sons. Remember that although God considered Noah righteous, Noah was a sinner like all the rest of us and didn't always do things right.

Genesis 9:18-29 (picture 33-1)

¹⁸The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth.

²⁰Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. ²¹When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. ²²Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. ²³But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness.

²⁴When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

²⁶He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. ²⁷May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave."

²⁸After the flood Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹Altogether, Noah lived 950 years, and then he died.

Noah planted a vineyard and then drank the wine he made from the grapes. What did Noah do that wasn't good? The Bible doesn't say that drinking a little wine is wrong, but it does say it isn't good to get drunk. Drinking wine to excess and becoming drunk caused Noah to lose good judgment and act immodestly.

What did Ham do when he saw his father drunk and naked? Ham didn't try to protect his father when he saw that he was drunk and lying there naked. Instead he broadcasted his father's condition to his brothers. He was dishonoring his father and that displeased God.

What did his brothers do that was right? Instead of following Ham's example Shem and Japheth covered up their father making sure that they didn't look at his nakedness and therefore disrespect him. Their actions pleased God.

Just because Noah walked with God didn't insure that his sons would follow in his footsteps. Each person has to make a choice as to whom or what he will follow.

What did Ham choose to do? Ham chose to dishonor his father. Because of his choice he was cursed by God.

What did Shem and Japheth choose to do? Shem and Japheth chose to honor their father and do what was right and were blessed by God.

Shem was the ancestor of the Israelites, the people of God, through whom God blessed the world by sending his Son. Israel's enemies, the Canaanites, came from the line of Ham. The Canaanites were the people God would drive from the land because of their evil.

What is the impact of our choices? Our choices either lead us toward God or away from him. We can't go our own way and do our own thing and expect to please God. How we respond to God's commandments impacts our lives. Following God's laws brings blessing and benefit. Disobeying them brings ruin and destruction. Our choices also affect those who follow after us.

The only one of the Ten Commandments that has a promise associated with it is the commandment to honor your parents.

Ephesians 6:2-3 says, ² "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—³ "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

What does it mean to honor your parents? If you honor your parents, you respect both them and their authority over you. You obey them without question or delay. You do what will bless and benefit them, not harm or hurt them in any way. You don't bad mouth them or talk back to them.

Why will it go well for children who honor their parents? Children who honor their parents show they understand their place in life; they are submitted to the authority God put in place over them. In honoring their parents they are more likely to honor God and do things his way.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What did Noah do after he planted a vineyard? How did Ham respond to his father's condition? What did Shem and Japheth do? Why was Ham cursed by God? Why were Shem and Japheth blessed?
- **Thought Questions:** Why do you think Ham chose to dishonor his father? Why do you think Shem and Japheth chose to respect their father? What do our actions show about us? How does God know what is in our hearts? How do children honor their parents? What causes children to honor their parents? Does honoring the parents depend on the parents being worthy of honor? Explain. Why does honoring one's parents bring God's favor on a person? Why do you think children dishonor their parents? Why do children think they can dishonor their parents? Why does dishonoring one's parents bring God's disfavor?

- **Prayer:** Thank God for the parents he has given you. Pray that God would reveal to you any way you are dishonoring your parents, no matter how small. Pray that God would work in your heart so that your thoughts would be pleasing to him and you would truly want to honor your parents.
- **The Big Question: What is the result of honoring parents?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:2-3** Life will go well for children who honor their parents.

² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—³ “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Questions: What does it mean to honor someone? How do you show honor to your parents? What is the promise associated with honoring your parents? Why is that a good promise? Why will life go well for children who honor their parents?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group.

What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Honor Your Parents
Unscramble the words (verbs) that are actions children do to honor their parents and find the hidden message: obey, respect, value, appreciate, revere, follow, heed, mind

Message: God blesses children who honor their parents.

- ★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.

Life will go well for children who honor their parents.

- **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.
- **Craft:** Make a bunch of grapes
One important commandment to follow is the one to honor your parents. Make a bunch of grapes with words that demonstrate honor.
Materials: copy paper, scissors, glue sticks
Preparation: Run off craft 33 on copy paper
Instructions: Cut out the grapes and paste them on the vine.
- **Game:** Backward relay

As a reminder that Shem and Japheth honored their father by not looking at him when he was drunk and naked, run backwards relay races.

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.