



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.)<sup>22</sup>"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)

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

*<sup>20</sup>Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. <sup>21</sup>When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. <sup>22</sup>Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. <sup>23</sup>But 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.*

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

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

*<sup>28</sup>After the flood Noah lived 350 years. <sup>29</sup>Altogether, 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, <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—<sup>3</sup> "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.

<sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—<sup>3</sup> “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:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: Noah was a farmer and planted a vineyard, but he drank too much of the wine he made from the grapes and got drunk.

1. Instead of helping his father Ham told his brothers that their father was lying there naked.
2. Shem and Japheth helped their father by covering him up without looking at him.
3. God blessed Shem and Japheth because they showed respect to their father but he cursed Ham because he didn't show respect.

- ★ **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.

- ★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

### Noah's lineage through Shem (picture 33-2)

From Genesis 11:10-26 we can trace the lineage of Noah's sons Shem all the way to Abraham. Looking at the chart of the years after creation, discuss with the students the following questions:



The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

**Digging Deeper:** How should children honor their parents?

Reading 1: Ephesians 6:1-4 Children should obey their parents.

Why should children obey their parents? What should fathers do for their children?

Reading 2: Proverbs 4:1-9 Children should pay attention and gain understanding.

Why should children pay attention to and gain understanding from their parents? What will wisdom do for a person? Why?

Reading 3: Proverbs 4:10-19 Children should listen to and accept what their parents say.

Along what path do parents want to guide their children? What will following that path do for their children? What happens if children reject the path of wisdom?

Reading 4: Proverbs 4:20-27 Children should guard their heart.

Why should children guard their heart? What does that mean? How does a person guard his heart?

Reading 5: Proverbs 6:20-23 Children should keep their parents' commands.

Why should children do what their parents say?

Reading 6: 2 Timothy 3:1-5 The importance of honoring your parents

Reflect on ways that you honor your parents and ways that you dishonor them. Examine the outcomes of those actions. Reflect about ways you can honor them more.