

Small Group Handout - Genesis 10

Genesis 10

New International Version 1984

The Table of Nations

10 This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.

The Japhethites

2 The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech and Tiras.

3 The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath and Togarmah.

4 The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittim and the Rodanim 5 (From these the maritime peoples spread out into their territories by their clans within their nations, each with its own language.)

The Hamites

6 The sons of Ham: Cush, Mizraim, Put and Canaan.

7 The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabteca.

The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan.

8 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord." 10 The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar. 11 From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah 12 and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

13 Mizraim was the father of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, 14 Pathrusites, Casluhites (from whom the Philistines came) and Caphtorites.

15 Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, and of the Hittites, 16 Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, 17 Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, 18 Arvadites, Zemarites and Hamathites.

Later the Canaanite clans scattered 19 and the borders of Canaan reached from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

20 These are the sons of Ham by their clans and languages, in their territories and nations.

The Semites

21 Sons were also born to Shem, whose older brother was Japheth; Shem was the ancestor of all the sons of Eber.

22 The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram.

23 The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshech.

24 Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber.

25 Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg, because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.

26 Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba, 29 Ophir, Havilah and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan. 30 The region where they lived stretched from Mesha toward Sephar, in the eastern hill country.

31 These are the sons of Shem by their clans and languages, in their territories and nations.

32 These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.

Section 1: Noah's Faithlessness

What are some things that you have seen or experienced, but still have a hard time believing?

Our previous studies taught us that Noah had seen God's power in a lot of different ways, yet he still struggled in his faith. How have you seen God's power in your life?

- Do these experiences/examples lead you act out of faith in Him? Why or why not?

Look back at Genesis 9:20-23. How did the drunkenness and carelessness of Noah and the disrespect that Ham had for his father show a lack of faith in God?

- What does lacking faith in God often look like today?

Section 2: God's Blessing

The blessing of Genesis 9:1 echoes the blessing of Genesis 1:28. How is being fruitful and multiplying a blessing?

- What other ways do you see God blessing Noah?

Section 3: God's Faithfulness

Ancient documents (like Genesis) were written and copied by hand. Paper and ink were both rare and expensive. What is the writer of Genesis saying by the amount of attention he is giving to the descendants of Noah in Genesis 10?

Look at Genesis 10:1 and 32. These 'bookends' to this passage show that God's blessing of Genesis 9:1 and Genesis 10:28 was on Noah and his descendants. What significance does it have to us that God's blessing was not nullified by the faithlessness of Noah and Ham?

Section 4: God's use of People who have Acted out of a Lack of Faith

Throughout Biblical history we see examples of God's people being unfaithful to Him and still being used by Him. Can you think of anyone? How were they unfaithful? How were they used of God?

- What does this say about God's ability to use flawed people?

In 2 Timothy 2 Paul writes:

11 Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,

we will also live with him;

12 if we endure,

we will also reign with him.

If we disown him,

he will also disown us;

13 if we are faithless,

he will remain faithful,

for he cannot disown himself. (2 Tim 2:11-13, NIV 1984)

What comfort can you derive from God being faithful to us even if our faith waivers?

- How have you experienced this in your life?

Do you believe that God can't use you for His purposes because of past faithlessness on your part? Take a moment with God to surrender yourself to Him anew and allow Him to remind you that you can be used even if you have been faithless in the past.

What is our community application of this passage?