TEACHER NOTE:

Romans 1:21-32 summarizes the type of behavior we find in Genesis 11—the progression, the posture, and the plight of sin:

- They did not worship God.
- They were unthankful.
- They professed to be wise (scholarship, humanism, credit given to Science based on man's assumptions).
- They changed the glory of the incorruptible God.
- They changed the truth of God into a lie.
- They worshiped the creature instead of the Creator.

The harvest of this is found in verses 26-32.

Divine Providence is God's **EXTRAORDINARY INTERVENTION** in the lives of people. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit saw what man was about to do, so they came down, way down to where man was in order to get involved.

Here, we find mankind, on the road of no return, poised to plunge off the high cliff of humanism and self-serving pursuits, when just in time, God intervenes by confounding the languages. When God confounded the languages, it was not a reaction of sabotage, but rather a **RESPONSE OF MERCY**. God's intervention took place because man's imagination was ready to take him beyond the point of reconciliation. They would have soon become a civilization with an unrestrained imagination, but, praise the LORD, *"where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."*

Today, we are no less removed from the wretched condition of the human race. Although we should have the grave historical account of a people under judgment to guide us into better reasoning, we are still, nevertheless, bound to our depraved origins. We should also be reminded that the book of Genesis, and specifically the account of Nimrod in this lesson is a stark reflection of our true humanity. Without the Word of God to guide us into Truth, all our attempts are but frail and futile efforts. The neglect of God's Word leads to a destructive end.

The hope of all nations lies in what those who have the Truth choose to do with it. We must ask ourselves, **"If we, God's people, knowingly possess the Truth of God's Word, then what are we actively pursuing in order for each nation to have that same Truth in their heart language?"**

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NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

TEEN TEACHER GUIDE | **LESSON 2**

THE SIN OF THE NATIONS

THE SIN OF THE NATIONS

LESSON TWO DEFINITIONS

Babel – confusion; to make sounds with your mouth that have no meaning.
Confound – to confuse or mix up.
Curse – to announce misfortune or doom on someone.
Intervention – to become involved in something (such as a conflict) in order to have an influence on what happens.
Neglect – to fail to take care of or to give attention to (someone or something); to fail to do.
Nimrod – Ham's grandson who tried to build a big city that would reach up to God.
Scatter – to cause to be spread out.

REVIEW

In the first lesson, we learned that creation worshipping the Creator is God's ultimate right and His greatest desire. We saw that God's delight in our worship is seen in Revelation 5:9 providing us with a glimpse of the rather colorful variety of redeemed gathered around the throne. We observed that in the selection of Abraham, God chose a people for His name through which all "nations" of the world would be blessed. The lesson explained the use of the word nations as it is used in the Bible as people groups rather than geographical boundaries as depicted on a map. Finally, we were challenged, yet encouraged by the enormity of the task in the hands of a very capable God.

Lesson Two – The Sin of the Nations (Genesis 11)

The focus of this lesson is on sin and its cure. We will observe the path of a son who had equal opportunity to obey God's commands, yet chose to withdraw himself from the protection of God-given limitations. In this lesson, we will follow the awful progression of a people who chose to defy God and thus build a city based on pride and wicked imaginations. Ultimately, we will discover the selection of God's chosen people, Israel in establishing a People for His Name.

READ GENESIS 9:22-27

Ham did not take God's commands seriously. There was evidence that Noah taught his children what the commands of God said. Not only do we read that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, but we also read that two of his sons knew to do right in the same situation. Ham's neglect of God's commands caused him to take a playful approach toward sin.

How did Ham's neglect of God's commands affect him? **HE WAS CURSED AND CONDEMNED TO BE A SERVANT OF SERVANTS TO HIS BRETHREN**

Did Ham's sin affect others? **YES**

How? **HIS DESCENDANTS WOULD SERVE THE DESCENDANTS OF SHEM AND JAPHETH**

Our sin rarely affects us alone. The old saying, "No man is an island unto himself" is especially true when man sins. Family members, friends, our peers, and often future generations are greatly affected by sinful choices. When Ham neglected God's Law, it passed on to his offspring and progressed to a new level of disobedience. We can clearly see the progression of what happened and the problems it caused.

TEACHER NOTE:

Another applicable demonstration of generational sins is found in II Chronicles 26 in the account of the successful King Uzziah of the Southern Kingdom. His own name meant "Jehovah is Strength." His royal resume was replete with a ruling tenure of 52 years; he was a military victor and tactician; and he improved the state of his kingdom during his monarchy. II Chronicles 26:5 tells us that, *"as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper."* Sadly, King Uzziah was overcome with his own success and sinned against God offering incense in the temple when he clearly knew it went against the Laws of God. Uzziah's pride and ultimate neglect of the commands of God resulted in leprosy; however, more enduring was the effect on his future generations. For it says of his son Jotham that though he did right in the sight of the LORD, *"…he entered not into the house of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly"* (II Chronicles 27:2). Furthermore, as the sad genealogy continues, Ahaz, the grandson of Uzziah was so far from truth and neglecting the Laws of God that II Chronicles 28:2-3 tells us, *"He made also molten images for Baalim. Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnon and burnt his children in the fire, after his abominations of the heathen…"*

READ GENESIS 9:1; 10:6, 8-10

In Genesis 9:1, what did God command Noah and his sons to do?
BE FRUITFUL, AND MULTIPLY, AND REPLENISH THE EARTH.

The name Nimrod (Ham's grandson) means **WE WILL REVOLT.**

Nimrod, descendant of Ham, defied the Lord. The Bible says that Nimrod was a *"mighty hunter before the Lord."* Being a hunter in that primitive age was important, as the earth was replenishing itself in wild animals as well as humans. The years following the flood would have been times of particular fear and concern, so it is easy to see why one such as Nimrod became a rising star and hero. It is important to understand that the word for "*before*" in the original language was also translated as "*against*," meaning that Nimrod's hunting was even an affront to God.

The single thread of a darkened land began with self-reliance. Recall that God instructed Noah's family to scatter and multiply the earth. There would be given extra longevity for Noah's family to accomplish that command on the earth. However, when God said, "Spread out!" Man said, "Build up!" So, in addition to a neglect of God's Word/Law, we now see a rejection of God's Word. Throughout the ages, we have observed how God gives commands and man has a better plan.

In Genesis 10:10, Babel was the beginning of Nimrod's **KINGDOM**.

Nimrod defiantly chose to stay in one place and grow a big city. He also placed himself at the helm and thus his city is declared a "kingdom." The first mention of a kingdom in the Bible is in connection with Nimrod's defiance and assumption of leadership. Ham's neglect of God's Word became Nimrod's rejection of God's Word and commands.

READ GENESIS 11:1-4

Babel was man's city. It was built by man and for his glory. The ideal world of Nimrod and his followers was a place void of divine authority and accountability. Their rebellion was based on pride, idolatry, and a wicked imagination.

What sin do you think Nimrod and those who built Babel exhibited in verse 4? **PRIDE**

Pride distorts our **WORSHIP,** our **VIEW OF LIFE,** and our **FEAR OF JUDGMENT.**

READ GENESIS 8:21; 11:5-9

According to Genesis 8:21, what did God call evil? **MAN'S IMAGINATION**

What promise did God make at the end of verse 21? **NEITHER WILL I AGAIN SMITE ANY MORE EVERY THING LIVING.**

In Genesis 11:6, God stated man's sin came from an unrestrained **IMAGINATION**.

Nimrod and his followers chose not to place their faith in what God said; instead, their confidence was placed in their own thoughts. The rejection of God's Word resulted in the reliance upon man's imagination. Every false religion known to man finds its origins in a Godless imagination. The plight of mankind can be summed up into one of two choices – to worship God, the Creator, by faith, or to worship man, the creation, by imagination.