TEACHER NOTE:

When God sent His own Son to earth, He did so with a final redemptive goal. Ultimately, Jesus was sent from His heavenly abode as the solution for a perfect sacrifice. Restoration was made possible ONLY by Christ's willingness to be sent to a people in need of a Redeemer. When God's divine plan is to send a servant on a mission, the spiritual results are incalculable.

In studying the word "scatter" or "scattered," there is a common conclusion that surfaces: that **THEY** might know **HIM**. God scattered the nations with a greater purpose in mind—that the world would have a holy recognition of Him.

READ EZEKIEL 29:21; 30:26; 38:23; PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11

What common phrase concludes these verses in Ezekiel? **THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD**. (This phrase is found 24 times in the Book of Ezekiel.)

According to Philippians 2:10-11, what two things will every human do?
1. BOW BEFORE GOD
2. CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

As we contemplate the daunting assignment to reach all nations, we are tempted to be overwhelmed. However, this matter of the nations is God's project and we are able to rest in His capable hands in quiet obedience. Taking the Gospel to the Unreached ensures more glory to His name. It should not be the motive of obedience to the Great Commission alone that draws us to the nations, but rather a delighting in what brings God pleasure. Making God famous among the scattered nations should be the first and final goal of missions. While millions of people remain unreached, having no Bible in their own language and not one Gospel-preaching church among them, we must ask ourselves, **"What are we going to do to reach the nations today?"**

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NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

TEEN TEACHER GUIDE | **LESSON 3**

The Scattering of the Nations

THE SCATTERING OF THE NATIONS

LESSON THREE DEFINITIONS

Confound – to perplex or amaze, especially by a sudden disturbance or surprise; bewilder; confuse.
Mission – a special and important task.
Restoration – a return of something to a former, original, normal, or unimpaired condition.
Scattering – distributing, dispersing, or separating.
Shem, Ham, and Japeth – Noah's sons who were commanded to spread out, to scatter to other places in the world.
Unreached People Groups – people groups/nations who are still waiting for the good news of the Gospel; they are less than 2% evangelized.

REVIEW

In the previous lessons, we have discovered that the worship of God by all creation is the ultimate goal of missions. His greatest desire is to be worshipped by all peoples (people groups/nations) of the world. We learned about a future act of true international worship in Revelation 5:9 and the biblical denition of the word **nations**. We observed the selection of Abraham along with *a people for His name* and God's divine design to bless the nations through the nation of Israel. Finally, we learned of the sin of the nations in not heeding God's command to scatter and the awful progression of sin stemming from a neglect of God's Word affecting ourselves and others. We were reminded of the sin of pride and wicked imaginations which today manifests itself in many forms of modern idolatry.

Lesson Three – The Scattering of the Nations

TEACHER NOTE:

Did the confounding of the languages and scattering the people really happen? The answer is, "YES!" This event really did happen. For a Christian who has had a Bible all his life and has placed full faith and trust in it, the question seems silly; however, for the lost humanistic society, this story is hard for them to swallow. Carbon dating, fossils, and evolutionary theories are the modern gauges in which "truth" is measured. The scale of human reasoning and logic outweigh the intervention of a supernatural one-time intervention by a Holy God. Though there is a common consensus among historians of a division of languages and resulting migration, it is nevertheless attributed to long spans of time, having neither a defined plan nor an intelligent process.

Apart from God's Word, man has no clue about his ethnic or linguistic origins. It can be amusing to pick up one of many secular writings and read man's struggle to explain and defend his theories and hypothesis that ultimately puzzles those brilliant men of science, yet a young child can pick up God's Word and read the answer and declare it with confidence.

The focus of this lesson is on God's scattering of the nations. Genesis 11:1-9 details this historical and pivotal event. In fact, the Bible is the only true source for historic information about the scattering of the nations and the instantaneous confounding of language. While the Bible records how the language was confounded and the nations were subsequently scattered, we may wonder if it also explains why it occurred. As we study further, we will learn God's ultimate design behind scattering the nations.

READ EZEKIEL 6:8; 11:16-20; 36:23-28

The scattering process positions man for **RESTORATION** with God. Scripture clearly declares God's love for all men and that He desires to restore man in fellowship with Him. When nations (especially Israel) fell into wicked idolatry, God judged them for their sins. Although God's judgment was swift and hard, He always did two things. These are shown in Ezekiel 6:8. What are they?

1. LEFT A REMNANT

2. SCATTER THE PEOPLE

What two results of scattering and restoration are seen in Ezekiel 11:19-20?

1. THEY WILL HAVE A NEW HEART

2. THEY WILL OBEY GOD'S WORD

According to Ezekiel 36:23, what happens when God's people are sanctified and restored? **THE HEATHEN WILL KNOW GOD IS THE LORD**

TEACHER NOTE:

Throughout Scripture, God uses the method of scattering for the purpose of restoration. God destroyed the earth as a result of man's sin by a catastrophic flood. Shortly after making the promise with Noah that He would not destroy the earth again with a flood, we find man back to his perverse ways. Instead of pronouncing a death sentence on the people, **God in His mercy, provides a way that would restore them by His Grace.** God confounded the languages and scattered them abroad so that one day He could restore them to Himself. The following verses demonstrate God's mercy in scattering and allowing a remnant to remain:

Psalm 59:11; Ezekiel 6:8, 11:16, 20:23-41, 28:25, 30:26, 34:30, 36:23-38; Matthew 9:36; Mark 14:27; John11:52; Acts 8:1-4, 11:19; James 1:1; I Peter 1:1

READ MARK 4:3, 14, 20; PSALM 126:5-6

God also restores man's fellowship with Himself by the scattering of His Word (the Seed). God desires His Word to be sown, scattered, broadcasted, preached, proclaimed, printed, and published.

In Mark 4:14, what did the sower sow (scatter)? **THE WORD**

According to verse 20, what happened to the seed which was sown on good ground? **IT BROUGHT FORTH FRUIT**

What promise does God give to the sower in Psalm 126:5?
HE SHALL DOUBTLESS COME AGAIN WITH REJOICING, BRINGING HIS SHEAVES WITH HIM

TEACHER NOTE:

The scattering of God's Word is also clearly represented in the audience of the Gospels. There are distinct groups addressed, which by God's sovereign pen even find their origins in the scattering of the nations. A good writer first determines his audience before commencing any writing project. Specifics about the target group have everything to do with the type and level of vocabulary, the use of meaningful illustrations, and the general tone of the text. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as the Synoptic Gospels. They are indeed very similar to one another, but quite different from the Gospel of John. However, though they resemble each other, these three Gospels represent very different approaches, particularly in their target audience. It is interesting to note that the scattering of the nations becomes the underlying tone of each text.

The Gospel of Matthew is directed at the Semitic people, those concerned with religion. It is of a surety for the Jews, the descendants of Shem.

The Gospel of Mark is clearly the Gospel of the servant, or the servants of mankind as were the descendants of Ham. The Hamitic people were responsible for exploration, mathematics, machinery, and for building of some of the greatest ancient civilizations.

The intellectual tone of The Gospel of Luke is directed at the thinkers. It is clearly aimed at the Greeks, the descendants of Japeth.

Not only does God use the scattering of the nations and the scattering of His Word to restore man's fellowship with Himself, but He also uses the scattering of His servants. Whom did God send, or scatter, in the following verses?

Jonah 1:1-2 — **JONAH**

Matthew 28:19-20 — **THE DISCIPLES**

John 3:16-17 — **JESUS**

Acts 8:1 — **THE CHURCH**

Acts 8:26 — **PHILIP**

Acts 13:1-3 —**BARNABAS & SAUL (PAUL)**

According to Acts 8:4, what was the result of God's servants being scattered? **THEY WENT EVERYWHERE PREACHING THE WORD.**