

When God started His special nation of Israel through Abraham, He promised that all nations of the earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 22:18). God has kept His promise by giving us His Son Jesus and the gift of salvation. Now, how will God use you to bring about the Salvation of the Nations?

KEY VERSES

Genesis 12:1-3, Isaiah 6:8

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

God chose Israel to be a blessing to the nations. The student should understand that as we receive that blessing (salvation through Jesus Christ) we are responsible to share that blessing with the lost.

LESSON DEFINITIONS

Abrahamic Covenant: an unconditional promise from God to Abraham of land, descendants, blessing and redemption

Blessing: God’s favor and protection, a benefit of mercy

Covenant: a promise, a legal contract

Israel: a special nation from the line of Abraham which God used to give us the Messiah, Jesus

Message: the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which each nation needs to hear

Messenger: the person who takes the message of the Gospel to the people who have not heard

Translate: the work of putting God’s Word, the message, into written form of the language of a particular nation

TEACHER NOTE: In Genesis 10, we looked at the structure of the nations. Though God structured each nation with similar design, each is uniquely diverse. In Chapter 11, the people rebelled against God, which prompted Him to confound the language and scatter the nations. We learned that by scattering the nations, it placed them in a position for restoration. Chapter 12 brings our focus in even closer from a nation to a man named Abram. God chose Abram’s seed to be the *one* nation out of *many* nations that extends salvation to *all* nations.

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NATIONAL
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CHILD TEACHER GUIDE | LESSON 4

The Salvation of the Nations



THE SALVATION OF THE NATIONS

CHILDREN’S EXTRA: SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

PREPARATION:

Choose one student to be a special helper for that day. Give a list of specific jobs that student will perform such as taking attendance, passing out papers or snacks, or even reading a missionary report from the field. Make a big deal out of this student’s responsibilities and how important these jobs are to helping the success of the class. Reward the student for helping manage the class.

APPLICATION:

Explain to the class that just like your assistant, God chose out Israel to bear a special responsibility for God. They have been specifically used by God to act differently so other nations could know about Him.

LESSON

By now, we have learned about the word nation and how it has very little to do with maps and everything to do with people groups. We discovered that a nation is formed by a people group having four things in common: lineage, language, laws, and land. God used Noah and his family to form all nations in the world. We have discussed the Tower of Babel and how one of Noah’s grandsons, Nimrod, chose to build a big city instead of scatter out as God had commanded.

We have discussed how God, on purpose, made all different types of people. In the past 4,500 years or so of human history, there have been a lot of people born into our world... billions and billions of them actually. All of the different people groups and nations started with Noah’s family after the great flood. Later, God mixed up the nations by creating new languages at the Tower of Babel.

TEACHER’S
HELPER!

Since then, the population of Earth has grown to include over 24,000 different people groups located in 200 different recognized political, geographic areas. Sadly, 6,000 of those people groups (which includes almost three billion people), have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God never intended for all these people to be left out of His plan for their salvation. In fact, God wanted all of the people of the whole world to know about Him. That’s why He created the special nation of Israel to be his chosen people and produce, through them, His message.

God chose a man named Abram to be the father of a great people which would become the nation of Israel. Abram, or Abraham, had a very special relationship with God.

READ: James 2:23

ASK: What special thing was Abraham called? (*the friend of God*)

I’m sure you probably have a very special friend. Have you ever made a promise to your friend? Well, one day God made a very important promise to His friend, Abraham.

When God made an agreement with people in the Bible, we call the agreement a covenant. God’s promise to Abraham is known as the Abrahamic Covenant.

TEACHER NOTE: Understanding God’s covenants is critical to comprehending God’s plan for humankind and for Israel. Eight such covenants have been drawn and ratified throughout God’s Word. They are the Edenic, the Adamic, the Noahic, the Abrahamic, the Mosaic, the Davidic, the Land, and the New Covenant.

The most important and foundational of all these covenants is the Abrahamic covenant. (Genesis 12:1-3) (The following verses also contain the Abrahamic Covenant: Genesis 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-11; 22:15-19; 26:2-5; 28:13-17.) A proper understanding of the Abrahamic Covenant is key to understanding God’s purpose for Israel and the Nations, as well as His way of dealing with humankind in general — as this covenant is also the basis for the development of other covenants. In many ways, God’s covenants can be seen as legal agreements between the Creator and humanity and/or Israel.

What made this covenant so great? It was great because it was made between God and himself, not God with man. It was an eternal agreement made by God who cannot lie.

READ: Genesis 12:1-2

ASK: What three things did God promise to do for Abraham? (*make of him a great nation, bless him, make his name [how he was known by others] great*)

READ: Genesis 12:3

ASK: What promise did God make to Abraham at the end of this verse? (*In thee shall all families [people groups] be blessed.*)

So how did God use Abraham to be a blessing to everyone else? Well, as we noticed earlier, God used Abraham to father the nation of Israel. God chose the nation of Israel to introduce all nations to Himself, and to, one day, introduce all nations to His Son, Jesus.

TEACHER NOTE: What made Israel such a blessing? Out of Israel came spiritual blessing, not just temporal blessings. According to Scripture, God took out of the Gentiles a people for His name. God chose them in order to bless them and so they would be a blessing to all the nations of the earth. After He chose them, He changed them. They were to be different from all other nations. Then He gave them a cause. This nation was to be the vessel that God would use to carry out His plan for all mankind.

Now that the nations are scattered all around the world, it is our job, as Christians who already know Jesus, to tell them all about His wonderful plan of salvation. But how can one Christian reach so many who have not heard?

- First, those people need something to hear. That’s right. There are billions of people who do not yet have a copy of God’s Word in their language. Christians need to be involved in translating and printing the Bible in order for it to go to those who have never had it. They need the message.
- Second, they need someone to take God’s Word to them. That’s right, they need missionaries, God’s soldiers on the front lines of the battle for the souls of people all around the globe. They need a messenger.

READ: Isaiah 6:8

There has to be a message (the Bible) and a messenger (the missionary), but the unreached people groups of the world will have neither if Christians don’t go. A Christian’s part is to either go or to give so that others may go. Could God, one day, use you to help translate His Word into a new language? Would you be willing to travel around the globe to tell someone about His love? Would you at least promise to pray for these missionaries and give money so they might be able to go?