



Q2: This first question is intended to help everyone in your group start putting yourselves into the shoes of everyone in this passage. It is easy to look at a certain incident from the outside and judge how someone else responded, and we all most likely judged Ham's response to Noah's sin. But our hope is that everyone would take an honest look at themselves as we're reading this passage and ask, "how do they typically respond to the sin of others around us?"

Q3: "God's people must respond to incidents of decadence with ethical purity rather than moral abandonment. We commit the sin of Ham whenever we hear of someone's struggle, of sin, of failure, and instead of figuring out how to bring grace to them, we "run and tell". We gossip. We pile on. Noah's sons covered the sin and nakedness. Shem and Japheth with the upmost care and reverence, go to cover their father. They do not treat his sin casually, but they treat it with mercy" (J. Wilson) **Read 1 Peter 4:8 and Matthew 18.** "This is what Christians do when confronted with the sins of others; they do what they would want done for them – not shaming, not ridiculing, not lording over – a demonstration of grace. This doesn't mean not mentioning someone's sin or never confronting or rebuking or preaching against sin – it just means doing so with reverence for God and with grace, not to demean or squash or humiliate, but to provide the shelter of God's love" (J. Wilson).

Q4: Read the John Piper quote and ask for the group's thoughts on that statement on "what is sin?". As Piper stated, sin is serious and should not be taken lightly. **Read Romans 6:23 and 3:23.** Sin separates us from God and the right payment for sin is death. In this passage the honor of Noah and the sanctity of the family had been treated lightly. Noah therefore pronounced the oracle of cursing; the Lord would fulfill it." (A. Ross).

Q5: The sensual sin of Ham has been affecting the people and cultures of the world since the time of this event. "It is difficult for the people living in the modern world to understand and appreciate the modesty and discretion of privacy called for in ancient morality. Nakedness in the Old Testament was from the beginning a thing of shame for fallen humankind. To Adam and Eve as sinners, the state of nakedness was both undignified and vulnerable...Ham's errant looking, a moral flaw, represented the first step in the abandonment of a moral code. This violation of a boundary destroyed the honor of Noah." (A. Ross). To anyone reading this passage for the first time they may not fully understand what is happening here and understand the significance of Ham's sin. Ham's was already choosing to reject God and that same sin has since infiltrated many people's and nations of the world. "People living in dark debauchery without any familial response but only aggressive hubris are enslaved already by their lusts and are doomed for divine destruction" (A. Ross).

Q6: Unfortunately, many of us have been affected by the sins of our parents, grandparents, and other family members and in this story, we see a plain example of that with Ham and his son Canaan. "The attitude that led to the deed of Ham came to full fruition in the Canaanites. These descendants were not cursed because of what Ham did: they were cursed because they acted as their ancestor had. That moral abandonment was fully developed in the Canaanites, which it took an oracle of the Lord to reveal and announce" (A. Ross). "Noah saw the same sin welling in Ham's youngest son, Canaan, and uttered an oracle that foresaw the degradation of

Canaanites as enemies of God's people (K. Hughes). No matter how generational sin has impacted your life, there is hope in Jesus Christ who offers freedom from the slavery of sin.

Q7: The examples of the sons of Noah show us a very clear example of how we should treat our parents and the importance of a Christ centered family. "The sons of Noah – Ham on the one hand, and Shem and Japheth on the other—are representative of two groups of mankind; those like Adam and Eve who with God's help have their nakedness covered, and those like Ham who make no attempt to cover their nakedness, even shamelessly exposing it. To one group, the line of Shem, there will be blessing; but to the others, the Canaanites, there will only be a curse" (K. Hughes). God calls us to honor our father and mother and puts a role on everyone in the family-fathers, mothers, sons, daughters. Encourage the group to think through the effects when Christ is in the center of the family and how that will affect the generations of the family and the communities, cities, and nations that they live in.

Q8: Read Colossians 3:11 and 1 John 1:8-9. Even when there is generational sin, the gospel has the power to break the cycles and addictions of sin that exist in families. God offers forgiveness for anyone that would confess their sin and repent, no matter what your background is, what family you came from, and what sin you have committed. "And today the gospel knows no boundaries. It goes to the children of Ham, Shem, and Japheth with saving power" (K. Hughes).



## LIFE GROUP

ICE BREAKER: What are some fun memories that you share every time you get together with family?

1. Read Genesis 9:18-29. What insight, lesson, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? How was your experience with the Life Tool's this past week?
2. How do you typically respond to someone's failure and sin?
3. How should Christians respond to the sin of others around them?
4. Why is it important to not treat sin casually?
5. How does the curse show the reaches of sin in generations and culture?
6. Has your life been affected by the sins of previous generations? If so, how?
7. How does the blessing in Shem and Japheth's life show the importance of honoring our father and mother and the role of a healthy family in culture? How are you leading your families?
8. Why is understanding the gospel important when there is generational sin?



## **FURTHER STUDY**



### **1 Peter 4:8 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

### **Psalms 32:1 (NIV)**

*Of David. A maskil.<sup>[a]</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

### **Colossians 3:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

### **John 1:29 (NIV)**

#### **John Testifies About Jesus**

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

### **1 John 1:8-9 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

## Romans 1:24-32 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup> In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup> they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. <sup>32</sup> Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

“No sin, furthermore, is minor. The sin of Noah wasn't minor, and the sin of Ham wasn't minor because no sin is minor. The fact of the matter is, though, that God, in demonstrating to us that sin had survived the Flood, He could have picked a thousand sins. Because Noah was a sinner, and his wife was a sinner, and the sons and their wives were sinners, God could have picked any number of sins to illustrate their fallenness. But He picks what appears to us to be somewhat of a minor sin to demonstrate to us that there doesn't have to be some kind of severe heinousness connected to a sin to make it a sin. The smallest iniquity – the smallest iniquity – can have disastrous repercussions. The sooner men learn that the better for them.”



“What is sin?  
It is the glory of God not honored.  
The holiness of God not revered.  
The greatness of God not admired.  
The power of God not praised.  
The truth of God not sought.  
The wisdom of God not esteemed.  
The beauty of God not treasured.  
The goodness of God not savored.  
The faithfulness of God not trusted.  
The commandments of God not obeyed.  
The justice of God not respected.  
The wrath of God not feared.  
The grace of God not cherished.  
The presence of God not prized.  
The person of God not loved.  
That is sin.”

- John Piper

## **Additional Resources**

Devotionals-

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/father-canaan/>

Articles –

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/jared-c-wilson/love-covers-shame/>

Sermon-

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-264/the-sin-of-noah>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/themes-from-genesis/noahs-nakedness/>