

## Genesis / Hope for the Nations / Chapter 10 / 4-26-2021



### MAIN POINT

The answer for a people so united and so profoundly divided is Jesus Christ.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Have you ever researched your family ancestry? Why or why not?

What we have in this passage is the response to God's charge to Noah after the flood to "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth". After the flood, Noah's family grew and his sons continued to have many sons, and those sons spread out from there to the surrounding areas. Those families came to create all the nations in the world. God worked through all the brokenness of Noah's family and specifically Shem's line to bring about his plan for all nations of the world, Jesus Christ. We think of each other in terms of our differences rather than our similarities. Fundamentally, we are all part of the same race, the human race. When we realize this, we are free to celebrate our equality, unity, and diversity. There is coming a day when people of all races will be shouting in all languages praised to the Lamb. In that day, we will no longer be separated by arbitrary divisions, but united in the worship of our God.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. 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. Where did you grow up? How has your experience shaped your own views on different races and cultures?**

All of us have a unique background and specific life experiences that have shaped many aspects of our views of this world. Depending on those experiences, our view of races and cultures can be very different from others and we have a tendency to forget that. Use this time for people to share their own personal life experiences that have led them to their current views of races and cultures.

- 3. How has this passage reshaped your view of different races and cultures?**

As your group listened to the message on Sunday and read through this passage, hopefully it brought to light some new perspectives that you did not have before. Hopefully it also changed the way you thought about the different races and cultures as we all come from the same family. This quote from commentator Kent Hughes stated it well, "All people are

united to one another both by their ancestry and by their responsibility to their Creator God. But at the same time all the world's people are divided by geography and language and ethnicity and culture- and most of all by their fallenness and sin, which separates them both from God and each other".

**4. How do we show a tendency, even with the gospel and our churches, to believe that we should focus on people like us?**

Our tendency is to be drawn and do life with people like that are similar to ourselves. We typically do life with people who are like us because we're more comfortable with those people and its usually easier to relate to them as well. God specifically makes the command to share the Gospel with every nation on the earth in Matthew 28:18-20:

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

God calls us to go across cultures, races, and nations to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Challenge the group to think through how they can start to get out of their comfort zone to witness to their neighbors, no matter where they come from.

**5. Think about your conversations about race over the last few months. Do you focus on unity or diversity? How does the gospel unite and reconcile your own relationships with people of different races?**

When we have a Gospel centered perspective on race and cultures, our perspective on their differences and how they do life, changes. We don't think of ourselves as better than that person and we know in the end we're all going to be in the same place. Read Revelation 7:9-12 and discuss the groups responses to this question:

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

As we read in Revelation it does not matter what tribe or nation you came from, we will all be together as one worshipping the one true God. There was only one people group in the beginning and there will only be one in the end worshipping the same God.

**6. In what ways does knowing God has a plan bring comfort and hope to our lives?**

When we start to see how God had a plan from the very beginning of human history all through the end time, as He has revealed in His Word, then a divine type of comfort and

hope will come over us as we walk through the difficult seasons in life. Commentator Kent Hughes stated this idea well in this quote, “What a God we have! God works his plan out in and not apart from human history—right in the middle of the politics, tragedies, surprises, and scheming’s of fallen man. History has two authors—man and God, but it is God who sovereignly directs everything. Our mighty God keeps his promises. We can trust him even if all of life seems out of control. And we can expect him to deliver by the unexpected”. We also see this idea in Acts. Read Acts 17:26-28 together and ask for additional thoughts:

<sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’<sup>[a]</sup> As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’<sup>[b]</sup>

## **7. How does knowing that God is sovereign over all things motivate us to live boldly for Christ as His followers?**

Understanding God is sovereign over all things that happen in this world should inspire us to live differently knowing God is in control of the outcome and knowing what the end of the story of this earth will look like. It should also encourage us that we don’t have to be at a specific place in our faith or be living this “perfect Christian” life to be used by God. “So we see that God even overruled the compounded miseries of human sin to work his plan. There is a flash of grace here though, because the very bloodline of the Messiah has sinners in it who are bad as we are. This prophesies hope for us all!” (K. Hughes). God has a plan to use us to accomplish His good purpose by His grace despite our sin. This idea is also seen in Ephesians 2:8-10:

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## **8. If God has detailed plans for the future and they always come to pass, how does that affect human responsibility?**

Even though God has a plan for how all things will come to pass in life, that does mean that we don’t have a responsibility to live our lives how God has called us to and obey his commands just because God is going to work it all out no matter what. We already read the command of God to take the Gospel to all nations on earth in Matthew 28, and we also see that same call in Romans 10:11-15:

<sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”<sup>[b]</sup><sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can

they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”<sup>[c]</sup>

God will work out his plan for humanity, but he calls upon his followers to be a part of his work of reconciliation and living out the purpose for which we were created. He has also given us the responsibility to be the representations of Christ on this earth and to show the love that He first showed us and we see this in John 13:34 and 1 John 4:20.



## **FURTHER STUDY**

### **John 13:34 (NIV)**

<sup>34</sup> “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

### **1 John 4:20 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

“Every aspect of the way God views and saves sinners is designed to undermine racism and lead to a reconciled and redeemed humanity from every people group in the world.”

— John Piper, Bloodlines: Race, Cross, and the Christian

“When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head”

- Charles Spurgeon



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## **Additional Resources**

Devotionals-

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/clean-and-unclean/>

Articles –

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/children-race-and-the-gospel/>

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/gods-sovereignty-and-our-responsibility/>

Sermon-

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-266/history-in-the-new-world>

<https://www.voddiebaucham.org/sermons/interview-on-racism-george-floyd-critical-theory-social-justice-marxism/>