



7

One Blood, One Race

Key Themes

- God created man in His image.
- God sees all men as sinners in need of salvation.

Key Passages

- Genesis 11:8–9; Acts 17:26–27; Genesis 3:20; 1 Samuel 16:7

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Recognize that all people are descendants of Adam, and are of one blood.
- Recognize that cavemen were intelligent descendants of Noah who lived in caves.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will decipher a “Backward Message” relating to the lesson.



Studying God’s Word

page 5

After Babel, men spread throughout the world. These people may have moved into caves to survive. Different characteristics arose in different people groups, but all people are one race—from one blood—descendants of Adam and Eve.



Activity 1: Skills at Babel

page 8

Students will see how family groups were not immediately equipped to begin all aspects of community life after being dispersed at Babel.



Activity 2: How Melanin Works

page 11

Students will participate in a demonstration with chocolate milk to illustrate that it is melanin—the same color in everyone—that creates different skin tones.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Backward Message worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Backward Message worksheet for each student



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Babel Migration map from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during class.
- Print one Cave Dwellers picture from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during class.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Babel Migration map
- Cave Dwellers picture
- One black and one white sheet of construction paper



SKILLS AT BABEL

- Print and cut one Skills at Babel sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM. Place folded strips in a container.

- Skills at Babel strips in container



HOW MELANIN WORKS

- No special preparation necessary.

- Milk
- Small, clear plastic drinking cups
- Chocolate syrup
- Stirrer



Memory Verse

Acts 17:26–27 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare for this lesson, read 1 Samuel 16:7; Genesis 10–11; Acts 17:26–27.

Where did the races come from? The Bible refers to all of us as being from one blood (Acts 17:26). God makes it abundantly clear that all humans are related, descendants of the first man, Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45), who was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27). After the judgment of the Flood about 4,300 years ago, only Noah and his family remained, and from Noah's three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—the world was repopulated (Genesis 9:18–19). But due to their disobedience, God's judgment came once again at the Tower of Babel where He confused their language and caused them to spread out (Genesis 11:7–8).

And according to God's Word, we are all related (Acts 17:26), we are all created in God's image (Genesis 1:26), and we are all sinners in need of salvation (Romans 3:23). This should convince us that God's plan was to promote unity among the human race—not an attitude of prejudice or racism.

Jesus instructed us to “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39) and God tells us that “the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

This is indeed God's intention. That we, too, avoid judging people because of their outward appearance, their ethnic features, their disabilities. We are instructed to “judge not, that you be not judged” (Matthew 7:1). This is a biblical principle we must model and teach our children from an early age. We are all one race—the human race. Our recognition of this fact will help to eliminate the prejudice and racism that permeates much of our culture today.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

It is because of what happened at Babel that the world doesn't have a common language. We know of over 6,900 spoken languages in the world today. Yet it is likely that less than 100 languages emerged from the Tower of Babel when God instantaneously confused the language. The languages that resulted from Babel are what we call “root” languages or language families. These root languages would have changed rapidly as they borrowed from other languages, developed new terms and phrases, and lost words. The biblical account of Babel occurred just as it is recorded. People

of one common language have developed into people of thousands of languages—because of their disobedience and pride.

The most controversy surrounding the Tower of Babel arises around the idea that we are all one race—the human race. Many people refuse to believe the biblical truth that we are all one race because there are major differences in appearance—such as skin color, hair, and eye shape—between the different people groups.

Since skin color is such an obvious difference, let's look at that. The truth is, we all have the same skin pigment, melanin, just more or less of it. Lots of pigment is called black, and a little pigment is called white. We are all merely a combination of these two pigments—black and white—creating differing shades of one basic color, brown.

The study of DNA and genetic makeup conducted by the Human Genome Project supports the biblical teaching that there is only *one* biological race of humans. The study determined that the differences in us that we perceive as so dramatic are a result of only a small fraction of our genes. In other words, we are all extremely similar in our genetic makeup. And what about those things that make us look different? They are very insignificant when taken into perspective. Again, the biblical principle is to love our neighbor as ourselves and to follow the Lord's example of disregarding the outward appearance and looking at the heart.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Let's take a look at some of the historical significance of the Tower of Babel. First of all, we know, according to Scripture, that the Flood was about 4,300 years ago—in about 2300 BC—and everything on the face of the earth was destroyed. The dispersion of the people at the Tower of Babel marked the beginning of the spreading of civilization over the entire world, beginning around 2242 BC (when Babel was scattered). Consequently, when we study ancient history, we need to remember that evidences of civilization that we find have to be dated after 2242 BC.

Another historical consideration in our discussion of God's judgment and dispersion of the people at Babel centers on what we hear about “primitive cavemen.” These cavemen are often presented as animal-like by evolutionists to legitimize the ape-to-man development theory. They are often described as having lived thousands of years before civilizations like Egypt or Babylon. However, we know according to Scripture that they

were the people God dispersed from Babel. They were not primitive but extremely skilled—enough so to be building cities (Genesis 4:17), raising and caring for livestock (Genesis 4:20), playing musical instruments (Genesis 4:21), and working in various metals (Genesis 4:22).

Although as a community they were accomplished at many things, once they were scattered, their survival depended on their individual skills alone. This may have resulted in some of the groups resorting to more primitive ways of surviving—they just didn't have all the skills they needed. And, the fact that they made their homes in caves proved their intelligence, as caves would provide protection and shelter from the weather, animals, or enemies. These people—these so-called "primitive cavemen"—were no such thing. They were intelligent people making up intelligent families. They were not sub-human, but descendants of Adam and Eve just as we are.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Lord, all of your Word is truth. But the world does all it can to distort that truth. As I prepare this lesson, please help me to understand the significance of the fact that we are all one blood—we are all one race—the human race. We are all descendants of Adam and Eve—and made in your precious image. Lord, keep me from any prejudice that may infect my heart against others. And enable me to impress on these children the importance of seeing all people as one race in need of one thing—the Savior, Jesus Christ.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- Distribute the Backward Message worksheets for students to decipher.

To make it more exciting and engaging for the class, you may want to have your students compete by setting up teams—with girls against boys, blondes against brunettes, etc. Time them to see who can figure the message out first.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme posters from previous weeks, quickly review the lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you review the Lesson Theme posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Let's get started. I need someone to read Genesis 11:8–9. *Choose a volunteer to read verses.*

Genesis 11:8–9

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Which phrase is repeated twice in that passage? *Scattered them abroad.*
- ? Where does the passage say they were scattered to? *Genesis 11:9. Over the face of the whole earth.*

Show Babel Migration map from the Resource DVD-ROM. Look at this map. Here in the middle is where Babel was probably located. See the arrows? The people went from Babel and spread over the whole world.

Last week we talked about why the people scattered. God confused their language because Noah's descendants weren't obeying God. They weren't filling the earth. Their language was confused, so they couldn't work together. Genesis 10 tells us that God divided them by language groups and family groups.



- ? Imagine all those people spreading out and moving with their families. Have you ever had to move with your family somewhere far away from everything you knew and all your friends? *Yes/no.*

Now, practically everyone in the world was moving at the same time! It wouldn't be easy for the people. Let's discover why.

Discover the Truth

As each language group traveled away from Babel, they had to find new places to live and survive. Some knew how to fish, so they were drawn to the seas. Some knew a lot about farming, so they might have searched for a nice flat area with fertile soil. Some people may have been hunters. They would have been drawn to a part of the world with big game.

Each family group had different skills that not only affected how they got food, but how they built their homes.

- ? What do you think the people who knew how to make bricks made their houses out of? *Bricks.*
- ? What would the people do for houses who didn't know how to make bricks? *They would use what they could: stones, mud, grass, wood, or caves.*

You see, when they were all together they were very talented and helped each other. They could build homes, garden, raise animals, sew clothes. But when God scattered all the groups it wasn't quite the same. The family that could build might not be able to sew. And the family that could farm might not be able to build. Every group went its own way and had to learn to survive without the other groups and their skills.

This may have led many of the people to find caves to live in.

- ? Have you heard the idea that cavemen are the missing link between humans and apes? *Yes/no.*

Many people have heard about Neanderthals and believe that they are the missing link. Evolutionists have led many to believe that if people live in caves, they must not be fully human. It is believed and taught that their brains were not developed enough to speak a language or to appreciate music. They had not "evolved" to the current "intelligent" human. But is that true?

Even in modern times, communities of cave dwellers have existed around the world. One example of just such a community can be found in Malta, a large island nation off the coast of Italy. It has a large cavern which served as a comfortable home to a community of people until the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The men of that cave community worked in the fields caring for animals during the day. The women took care of the children and made cheese. In the 1600s a German scholar visited this group in Malta, and wrote a detailed description of this unusual cave community. He said that when he visited, tall, strong, and simply dressed children and adults greeted him. He also noted that the women were remarkable for their good looks. The cave dwellers were vegetarians, eating vegetables, cheese, and home-baked bread. They used dried cow dung to fuel their fires.

? Do those people sound fully human to you? *Yes!*

Sure they do. Living in a cave doesn't make someone an animal. There are many practical reasons to live in caves.

? Can you think of why living in a cave would be smart? *Caves would protect you from the weather, animals, etc.*

Caves would be great places to live—nice and warm in the winter and nice and cool in the summer. Caves give people protection from the weather and wild animals. It was very smart for them to move into caves until they could build another place to live. *Show the Cave Dwellers picture of a family living in a cave from the Resource DVD-ROM.*

Evolutionists teach that Neanderthals, or cavemen, weren't fully human. But here is a depiction of what has been found in some of these ancient caves. These people were made in God's image—fully human—just like us!

? What do you see in this picture that tells us that these people were human? *Tools, fire, spears, a musical instrument.*

Neanderthals—cavemen—were people who survived by hunting large game. They used spears made of wooden handles with stone spearheads. They cared for the injured, and buried their dead in caves or rock tombs. Animals don't bury their dead. These "cavemen" were a human community who proved their intelligence by living in caves until they were able to build homes.

We need to look at cave dwellers with biblical glasses. It makes sense based on what we know God's Word says that these people were descendants of Noah who were moving from Babel. They needed a safe, dry, warm place to live, and caves were available.

There never have been cavemen like you might see in a school book or on a TV show or movie that are part ape and part human. All people are made in the image of God and descended from Adam through Noah.





Skills at Babel

MATERIALS

- Container filled with strips from Skills at Babel sheet

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the class into two or more teams. Students will send a team representative to pick a “skill” strip. That student will have to act out what his/her skill is without speaking—charade style. His team will have the first opportunity to guess. If they get it wrong, allow the other team(s) to guess the answer. Keep score of correct answers to keep the charades more exciting.

What would you do if you had to build a new civilization from the ground up with only the skills listed on these pieces of paper? Show the container holding the skill strips. It would be difficult and it would take a long time. You would need lots of skilled workers. We are going to play a game of charades. I want you to act out the skill you pick from this container and see if your team can guess what it is. Allow students to play “skill charades” as time allows. Keep a list of the skills on the board.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Good job! Every one of these skills—and many more—are necessary to build a civilization. And there is evidence that the people were performing all of these tasks at Babel.

As the family groups spread out from Babel, each group would have had different skills and abilities. Those skills would determine what their new community looked like. For example, the family group that settled in Egypt must have had all the skills needed to develop into an advanced, pyramid-building society. Other civilizations started out with fewer skills and developed more slowly. It’s a good possibility that the people who ended up living in caves—the cavemen—were part of a family group who didn’t have all the advanced skills needed to build fancy homes. But that doesn’t mean they were any less human or intelligent than anyone else.



Acts 17:26–27

READ THE WORD

Now let’s read some verses from the New Testament: Acts 17:26–27.

? Does that reference sound familiar to anyone? *It is our memory verse.*

Right! Let’s read it together from the Memory Verse poster. *Have all the students read together.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? Verse 26 says “He has made.” Who is that referring to? Who has made? *God.*

? And what has He made? Still in verse 26. *Every nation.*

? And what is interesting about every nation of men who dwell on the earth? *They are from one blood.*

? What do you think that means? One blood? *Listen for ideas.*

? Have you ever called anyone a blood relative? What does that mean? *Someone related to you through your family. Family members.*

Right. And our verse says God made all of us of “one blood.” Let’s study that.

? Who were the very first man and woman? *Adam and Eve.*

? Right! And which people on earth descended from Adam and Eve? *Everyone.*

That’s right. Since they were the very first people, we all must be descended from them. It was a very long way back, but we are all part of their family—God made all of us from “one blood.”

Turn to Genesis 3:20. I want to show you something. *Have someone read Genesis 3:20.*

? What does this verse tell us about Eve? *She is the mother of all living.*

Again, God is telling us that we are all part of the same family. We are all descended from Adam and Eve.

I don’t think we act like we believe that we are all part of the same family. We often act like we don’t like people who are different from us. That is not good! And God tells us what He thinks about that.

Turn to 1 Samuel 16:7. Will someone read that verse for me? *Choose a volunteer.*

? Who is speaking in this verse? *The Lord is speaking to Samuel.*

The Lord is speaking to Samuel. Samuel was trying to find God’s king. Samuel automatically went to the biggest, strongest, best looking man.

? But what did the Lord tell Samuel here? *Do not look at appearance or physical stature.*

? What does God mean by “physical stature?” *How tall, strong, and good looking he is.*

? According to this verse, what do men usually see first when looking at someone? *Man looks at the outward appearance.*

? And what does the Lord always look at? *The heart.*

Discover the Truth

? Let’s face it; we always look at people’s outward appearance—at least at first. What are the things we see when we look at someone? *Physical appearance like hairstyle, muscles, height, beauty, skin color, clothes, shoes, glasses, braces, etc.*

? And what does God look at? *The heart.*

Right. The heart is what defines the person, not anything on the outside. God looks at our heart—what is inside.

Genesis 3:20

1 Samuel 16:7

This is a pretty interesting idea. You see, we know we are all descended from Adam and Eve. We are all from one blood, like our memory verse tells us. The problem is, we often act like we don't believe that. We often judge people by their outward appearance. In fact, many people talk a lot about different races. And this idea has caused and still causes huge division, hatred, arguments, prejudice, and even wars among people on the earth. But according to God, there really is only one race—the human race—even though we all look different on the outside.

Sadly, when people look different than we look, we often treat them differently. Look at our Lesson Theme poster for today. People are different around the world. *Show the Lesson Theme poster pointing out the different types of people.*

? Does God use what we look like to determine if He likes us? What does God look at when He looks at people? *God looks at the heart.*

God says we are all the same. We are all created in His image and descended from Adam. God says we are all one race.

? What race are we all? *The human race.*

Because we are all one family, we should treat each other that way. All the outside differences shouldn't matter. You know that God looks past all of that stuff on the outside—He looks at the heart.

? Do people often judge others by the color of their skin? *Yes.*

Yes. People do that. But it's wrong! In fact, it doesn't make any sense because we all have the same skin color. Does that surprise you?

? Look around. What color skin do you think we all have? Shout it out. *White, black, brown.*

Let me show you something. Look at this sheet of paper. *Hold up a black or white piece of construction paper depending on what color your skin would be called.*

? What color is this? *White or Black.*

But am I really this color? *No.*

People are not white and people are not black like the color of these papers. People are some shade of brown. *Show both white and black construction papers.*

That is because we all have the same brown pigment in our skin. It is called melanin. *Write on the board, "melanin."*

Some people have a lot of melanin, and they are very dark brown. Some people have just a little melanin, and they are light brown. *Demonstrate this with different students in your class or with pictures of different people.*

So, you see, we all have the same color skin, just different shades, depending on the amount of melanin we have. And the color of our skin doesn't have anything to do with who we are.

? What really determines who we are? *Our heart.*

If God doesn't look at the outside—at the color of our skin—then neither should we.



How Melanin Works

MATERIALS

- Small, clear plastic cups (if you have a small class you could have one cup for each child to drink after the demonstration)
- Milk
- Chocolate syrup
- Stirrer

INSTRUCTIONS

Line up the cups on a table and put just a little milk in each glass. Add just a little chocolate syrup to the first glass, a little more to the next, a little more to the next, and a lot to the last.

Who likes chocolate milk? This chocolate is like the melanin in your skin. If I put just a little chocolate in a cup, it is not very dark.

But if I put a lot of chocolate in a cup, the milk gets a lot darker!

Do you see? The more melanin we have, the darker our skin. But we are all still the same inside, just like the milk is the same.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We are all one race—the human race. We look different and speak different languages, but we are all descendants of Adam. We have all been created in the image of God. What makes our skin different is the amount of melanin we have in our skin. If we have more melanin, our skin is darker; if we have less, our skin is lighter.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Let's consider all the interesting things we learned today. First, we read how God scattered the people at Babel. The family groups went in many different directions. Some of these people ended up living in caves because caves offered protection from the weather and wild animals. The cavemen from long ago were actually very smart people—fully human, not part apes or partially evolved humans. They were intelligent descendants of Noah.

Then we talked a little about our memory verse. It says we are all of one blood. That means we have all come from Adam and Eve—the first people God created.

? So if we are all descended from the same two people, how many races are there? *Just one—the human race.*

We do look different. And one big difference is our skin color. Skin color causes a lot of problems between people. But skin color is not really a big difference. We all have melanin in our skin that makes us different shades of brown, some darker, some lighter. We are actually all the same color—brown.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

? So how should we treat people who are different from us? What does God say to look at? *Allow answers. The heart.*

We should not think we are better than anyone. We don't need to fear people because they look different from us. We should never judge people by their outward appearance. We are all one race—the human race. God tells us that He looks at the heart of man not the outward appearance. And we are called to do the same thing.

And, most importantly to this topic, is that all people throughout the whole world have something in common, no matter what color their skin is. We are all sinners. Every one of us. We all need Jesus and His forgiveness. Jesus died so that all who turn to Him, turn away from their sins, and place their trust in Him will be forgiven—and will be saved from the punishment that they deserve because of their sins—the punishment of hell.

All who trust Christ as their Savior, no matter what they look like on the outside, receive the gift of eternal life and become part of a new family—the family of God.



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Acts 17:26–27 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Pray that the students will see people the way God sees them, and will learn to love all people no matter how they look on the outside.
- Pray that they will seek after God and find the truth of His Word and the joy that only He can bring through that truth.