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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 3:20, 11:8–9; Acts 17:26–27; 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

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Children will unscramble the words from the memory verse on the Acts 17:26–27 Word Scramble activity sheet and then color the picture on the sheet.



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: Cave Drawing Coloring Sheet

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Children will color the Cave Drawing coloring sheet.



Activity 2: How Melanin Works

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Children 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 Word Scramble activity sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Word Scramble activity sheet for each student
- Pencils and crayons



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 use during class.
- Print one Cave Dwellers picture from the Resource DVD-ROM for use during class.

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



CAVE DRAWING COLORING SHEET

- Print one Cave Drawing coloring sheet for each student.

- Cave Drawing coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons



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).

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 . . .

- They will unscramble words from the memory verse on the Acts 17:26–27 Word Scramble activity sheet.
- They will color the picture on the sheet.



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 read Genesis 11:8–9. Can you find it in your Bibles? As I read it listen for a phrase that is said twice. *Read the passage aloud, emphasizing the repeated phrase, "scattered them abroad."*

Genesis 11:8–9

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who can tell me what phrase was said twice? *Scattered them abroad.*
Excellent! You were really listening!
- ? Where does the passage say they were scattered to? *Over the face of the whole earth.*
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. *Show Babel Migration map.*
- As we studied last week, the people had disobeyed God, so He had to punish them. He changed their language so they couldn't understand each other. This made the people want to leave Babel.
- ? When the people left Babel, they left in separate groups. If you had to leave home with a group of people, who would you choose? *My family.*



You would want to leave with your family, wouldn't you? And you would also want to stay with people who spoke the same language as you did. The Bible tells us that the people did leave Babel in the different language and people groups, according to their families.

Discover the Truth

As the people traveled away from Babel, they had to find new places to live. The people who knew how to make bricks could probably start building houses right away. Some knew a lot about farming and they might have gone to a nice flat area where the soil was good.

Some people liked it very warm, and they might have gone south where it was hot. People scattered over the whole world.

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. Caves would be a nice, warm place to live. 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 from Resource DVD-ROM. You may want to pass it around.*

These people actually were very smart to find these caves to live in. It was the best choice they could have made. In fact, many people around the world live in caves even today.

? What do some people today call these people who lived in caves? *Cavemen.*

Right. These are the cavemen that evolutionists teach about. Evolutionists teach that cavemen weren't fully human like us. They believe that they were sub-human—part animal on their way to evolving into humans! But we know that can't be true.

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; they were moving from Babel, and they needed a safe, dry, warm place to live.

These people were smart human beings, created in the image of God, just like every person living on the earth today. They probably didn't look much different than we do today.

There actually were no cavemen like you might see in a school book or on a TV show or movie. All people are made in the image of God and descended from Adam through Noah.





Cave Drawing Coloring Sheet

MATERIALS

- Cave Drawing coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Hand out the Cave Drawing coloring sheet and crayons to each child. Have the children color the things that "cavemen" may have drawn on the cave walls.

This coloring sheet has several items that people may have drawn on their cave walls. These people who lived in caves were not stupid. They were very smart.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Discuss while children are coloring.

When archaeologists discover caves where people lived, there is no evidence that the people who lived there were stupid or primitive! In fact, they were very wise as they looked for shelter from the weather and protection from animals.

The people who lived there were smart: they made instruments, tools, and weapons. Plus, they could draw. Don't believe it when you see a movie where cavemen only make grunting sounds, or don't seem to know how to survive. Cavemen like that did not exist. The first person created was Adam, and he was not a caveman! He was made in the image of God—just as every human is and always has been.



READ THE WORD

Acts 17:26–27

Now let's turn to the New Testament and read Acts 17:26–27. *Read passage.*

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

Right! Let's read this verse from the Memory Verse poster. *Have all the children read.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? What does verse 26 say about men? *God made them from one blood. Refer to the words on the Memory Verse poster.*

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

? Well, let me ask you. Who were the very first man and woman? *Adam and Eve.*

? Right! And what people on earth came from Adam and Eve? *Everyone.*

That's right. Since they were the very first people, we are all descended from them. We are all part of their family. And that is what this verse means when it says all men are of one blood.

In fact, listen to how God puts it in Genesis 3:20. *Read Genesis 3:20.*

Genesis 3:20

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

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

God tells us something else about this. He tells us what He sees when He looks at us.

- ? Turn to 1 Samuel 16:7. Can someone read that verse for me? *Assign a reader.*
- ? Who is speaking in this verse? *The Lord and Samuel.*
- ? The Lord is telling Samuel not to look at something in a person. What is it? *Do not look at his appearance.*
- ? That's right. What do we look at when we look at a person according to this verse? *Their outward appearance.*
- ? Right. And what does God look at? Look again in 1 Samuel 16:7. *God looks at the heart.*

This verse is telling us that when we look at people, we often look at what they look like, what they are wearing—but God always looks at the heart of a person.

Discover the Truth

Well, here is the point. 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 don't hear that or believe it. In fact, people talk a lot about races—and according to God, there really is only one race—the human race—even though we all look different on the outside.

Speaking of looking different, we might treat each other differently because of how we look. Look at our Lesson Theme poster for today. There are a lot of different types of people. And we often look at their appearance and decide if we are going to like them or not. *Show the Lesson Theme poster pointing out the different types of people.*

- ? Does God treat people that way? What does God look at when He looks at people? *No. God looks at their heart. If they don't understand this you may want to read 1 Samuel 16:7 again.*

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. We are all of the human race.

Because we are all one family, we should treat each other that way. It doesn't matter what the differences are. Maybe someone is fat, or skinny. Maybe someone has really light skin, or really dark skin. Maybe someone is really smart; maybe someone isn't so smart. Maybe someone has a physical disability and can't run and play. Do you know that God looks past all of that stuff that is on the outside? He looks at the heart. And that is what He wants us to do, too!

- ? What is the first thing we usually notice is different about people? Look at this Lesson Theme poster. *The color of their skin.*

Yes. People often judge others by the color of their skin. But this is wrong! In fact, I want you to know that we all have the same type of skin color. Does that surprise you? 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.*

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 color in our skin. It is called melanin. *Write "melanin" on the board.*

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 (if you have students with different skin colors) or with pictures of different people.*

So the color of our skin doesn't have anything to do with who we are. In fact, we all have the same color skin because of the melanin in our skin. And God doesn't look at the outside appearance. If God doesn't look at the outside—at the color of our skin—then neither should we.

? What does God look at when He looks at us? *Our heart.*



How Melanin Works

MATERIALS

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

INSTRUCTIONS

Line up the cups on the floor or 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. *If you have a small class with mixed people groups it might be fun to try to match the color of the children's skin to their chocolate milk.*

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 different 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

We heard some very good things today. I want to remind you what they were. First of all, when God scattered the people at Babel they went in many different directions. Family groups joined together and left their homes. A lot of these people ended up living in caves. That was very smart of them. Caves offer protection from the weather and wild animals. The cavemen from long ago were actually very smart people. They were 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. There are not a lot of different races, but just one—the human race. We do look different. One difference in us is our skin color. But that skin color is not really a big difference. Because really we all have the same skin color—something called melanin. It is just that some have more melanin—they are darker. Some have less melanin—they are lighter.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

So how should we treat people who are different from us? Should we look at them and think they are not as smart as we are? Should we think we are better than they are? Should we choose our friends by how they look? Should we think they are going to hurt us just because they look different from us? God does not look at the outside, does He? God looks at the heart. And we are called to do the same thing when we are looking at people.

And I want you to remember one very important thing. There is something everyone in the whole world has in common. We are all sinners. 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 their sins would bring—the punishment of hell.

Everyone who has trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior, no matter what people group he belongs to or what he looks like, receives the gift of eternal life and becomes part of a new family—the family of God.



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children 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.

Let's say our memory verse together. *Say the verse from the Memory Verse poster a couple of times with the children.*

? Let me help you understand this verse. Look at the Memory Verse poster and see if you can find the answers here. Who knows what this means—that He has made every nation from one blood? You should know that. We've been talking about it. *We are all one race—the human race. We are all descended from Adam and Eve.*

? Where do we dwell or live? *On the earth.*

This says that God has determined preappointed times and dwellings for men. This means that God planned when we would all live and where we would live. God knew where you would be born, who your parents would be, who would make up your family, and where you would live. God has determined our preappointed time and our dwelling. He did that before we were ever born. *Refer to the Memory Verse poster while discussing this.*

? Now look at the end of the verse. What does God hope for? *He hopes that man might seek after Him.*

Yes. God wants us to seek after Him. He wants us to go to Him. He promises that if we seek Him, if we come to Him, we will find Him.

? Where is God now, according to the very end of this verse? *He is not far from us.*

He is not far from us. And He wants us to seek Him. And when we do, His joy will fill our hearts.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

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

- Pray that the children 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.

