



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

- Acts 17:26; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 22:39; Romans 3:23

Lesson Focus

- We are all one race—the human race.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Different Children coloring sheet.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Although we all look different, the Bible tells us we are all of one blood, one race, the human race—descended from Adam and Eve. We are all created in God's image, and we are all sinners in need of a Savior.

Song—Sing the "Acts 17:26 Memory Verse" song and the "We Are All One Race" song.



Activity 1: Are We Different?

By mixing various strengths of chocolate milk, children will see that skin tones may not really be all that different after all.



Activity 2: Love Your Neighbor Lollipop

Children will color and sign a Love Your Neighbor Lollipop card to give away to someone after class.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Print one Different Children coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Different Children coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons



CIRCLE TIME

- Bring a stuffed animal for prayer time.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed Animal



ARE WE DIFFERENT?

- No special preparation is necessary for this activity. Bring in the necessary items.

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



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR LOLLIPOP

- Print and trim one of the Love Your Neighbor Lollipop cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Bring in enough lollipops that each child can make at least one Love Your Neighbor Lollipop.
- Bring in a hole punch.

- Love Your Neighbor Lollipop card for each student
- Lollipops
- Hole punch
- Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



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 children arrive . . .

- They will color the Different Children coloring sheet. Discuss how many of us look different from each other.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous 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 display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Teach the lesson using the stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today let's tell God how sorry we are that we don't obey Him all the time.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your circumstances. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, I am so sorry . . . *(enter personal prayer here).*

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God they are sorry for something they have done.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Before we begin, what is this?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*
- ? **What is in this Bible?** *God's holy Word!*
- ? **What does the Bible tell us?** *Everything we need to know!*
- ? **And all God's Words in this Bible are what?** *True!*
- ? **You are right. All of the words in this Bible are true. Today we are going to do a couple of things. Take a look at the Flip Chart. What do you see?** *Allow for answers.*

➤ As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

These are children from all over the world. They really look different from us, don't they? They have different colored skin, they wear different clothes, they have different types and styles of hair. There are a lot of differences. Some say that each of these children is a different "race" because they are from a different place and look so different. But we are going to see that God's Word says we are all ONE race—the human race.

Point out the differences on the Flip Chart.

These children are from all over the world. But they are all ONE race—the human race.

- ? **Do you know people who look different from you?** *Allow for answers.*

Even though they look different from you, the Bible tells us that we are all ONE Race, the human race!

Let's take a look at our memory verse. It is in Acts 17:26. Repeat that with me. *Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse page. Also open your Bible and show them where the verse is.*

This is from God's true Word. Let's see what God says about all the people of the world. *Read Acts 17:26 with the children from the Flip Chart a couple of times pointing to the pictures.*

What does this verse mean? First of all this word "He" means God. And it says that He has made all people from one blood. *Point out the words.*

- ? **Who were the very first people God ever created?** *Adam and Eve.*

Acts 17:26

Right. They were the very first people. So when God says He made us all from one blood He means we ALL came from the same two people—Adam and Eve. We are all one race—the human race.

You see the verse says that ALL nations of men who dwell—or live—on all the earth came from that one blood—Adam and Eve. We are really all one race—the human race.

Some people don't like to believe this because we look so different. Some people don't like it when people are different from them. But that isn't right. Let me read something else to you. Listen very carefully. *Turn back to the lesson Flip Chart page. Read Genesis 1:26 out of your Bible emphasizing "in Our image."*

Genesis 1:26

? How did God say He created all men? *Allow for answers. In His image.*

Yes, we were all created in God's image. That means when God created us, He didn't create some people better than others. No person is better than any other person in God's eyes. No matter what they look like or what they wear. *Refer to the Flip Chart. We are all one race—the human race.*

We are ALL created in God's image. None of us is any better than anyone else. Hmmm. That should help us to obey something Jesus told us to do.

Listen to this and tell me how Jesus wants us to treat each other. *Read Matthew 22:39.*

Matthew 22:39

? What did Jesus say? How should we treat each other? *We should love each other.*

That's right. Jesus says we need to love each other. And that means other children who look different from you! We are all really one race—the human race. We are all created by God in His image. And Jesus says we should love each other.

The Bible says there is something else that makes us all alike. Let me read this to you and see if you can figure it out! *Read Romans 3:23 emphasizing "all have sinned."*

Romans 3:23

? What does God's Word say we all do? *Reread the verse if necessary. Sin.*

? That's right. What does God think of sin? *He doesn't like it.*

? What does God have to do to people who sin? *Allow answers. God must punish sin.*

Yes. God must punish sin and we are ALL sinners! Oh no! That's trouble. But God sent Jesus to earth.

? What did Jesus do? *He died on the Cross.*

Yes. He died on the Cross and took the punishment for the sin of everyone who would believe in Him and trust Him. You see? We are all one race, we are all created in God's image, we all sin, and we all need Jesus to forgive our sins. We are all really a lot alike!

SONG

Guess what? We have a song to sing that will help us to remember this! Everyone stand up. This song is called “We Are All One Race.”

The lyrics to the songs are on the Flip Chart Song page and can also be found on the Song sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

What race is that? Who can tell me? *Allow for answers. The human race.*

OK. Everybody stand up. Let’s sing!

Great singing! Now before we go back to our tables, let’s sing our memory verse song. Our memory verse is Acts 17:26. *Turn to Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Pointing at each picture, sing the song through several times as time permits. As they get to know the song better, you may want children to use instruments or march as they sing.*

Let’s go back to our tables now. We are going to learn some more from chocolate milk and lollipops!

► Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning.



Are We Different?

Who likes chocolate milk? Today we’re going to make some chocolate milk. We’ll see that chocolate milk is all the same even though it looks different. It’s milk with chocolate! Gather around here.

MATERIALS

- Clear paper cups
- Milk
- Chocolate syrup
- Spoon for mixing the milk

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.

People have all different skin colors. Hold your arm next to the person standing beside you. Are you exactly the same color? Of course not! But we are all people created in God’s image with skin, right?

Let’s say this milk and the chocolate is like your skin. When I put just a little chocolate in the cup of milk it doesn’t get very dark. But it is still chocolate and milk. If I put a whole lot of chocolate in the cup and mix it up real good, it’s a lot darker. But it is still just chocolate and milk.

Do you see? Even though our skin colors may be different, they really are the same, like the milk. It’s just that some people are darker than others. *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. Our skin looks different, but it really isn’t different. It’s just skin. Some skin is darker than other skin. That’s all there is to it. *If appropriate, fix a small chocolate milk for everyone to enjoy.*



Love Your Neighbor Lollipop

Today, we are going to make a Love Your Neighbor Lollipop. This is not for you to eat but for you to give away. I want you to take it to someone you know will appreciate a special treat from you. I would rather you give it to someone you don't normally see or talk to, someone who will be very thankful that you would think of them.

MATERIALS

- Love Your Neighbor Lollipop card for each student
- Lollipops
- Hole Punch
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut one card for each student in your class. Have the children color the card. Then help them sign the card, fold it in half, punch the holes, and push the lollipop through the holes.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Sometimes it is hard to love other people, especially if they seem different from us. But we can do it with Jesus's help. When we know who Jesus is and believe in Him, loving others becomes a lot easier. Jesus said we need to love our neighbors as ourselves—no matter how different they are.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Acts 17:26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth . . .

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.

► You can allow the children to have a lollipop as part of their snack or use it as incentive to say the memory verse on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to the Flip Chart. So, when we think about all the different people in the world, instead of thinking how different we are, remember that God made us all alike! We do look different, that's true. We have different skin, hair, eyes, we're just different. But we are all one race. We all came from the very first people God ever created, Adam and Eve. And God created all people in His image. All people are special to God. And remember, we are ALL sinners. Because we are all sinners, we all need Jesus. Jesus is the

only way to receive forgiveness for our sins. Because everyone is a sinner—everyone needs Jesus. You see, we really aren't all that different after all.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

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

So how should we treat people who are different? We are not better than anyone. We are all created in God's image. And we should listen to what Jesus said in His Word—that we should love each other no matter how different other people are from us. Jesus said we should love them like we love ourselves. Don't forget to give your Love Your Neighbor lollipop away to someone you may not normally talk to or to someone who is different from you. Show them you want to be obedient to Jesus's command to love your neighbor as yourself.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word that teaches us that there is only one race, the human race.
- Thank God that all people are created in His image and are special to Him.
- Ask God to show us how to love each other the way Jesus commanded us to, no matter how different we are from each other.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

ACTS 17:26 MEMORY VERSE

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

And He has made,

(Are you sleeping?)

From one bloo-ood,

(Are you sleeping?)

Every nation, every nation.

(Brother John. Brother John.)

To dwell on all the ear-earth.

(Morning Bells are ringing!)

To dwell on all the ear-earth.

(Morning Bells are ringing!)

Acts Seventeen: Twenty six.

(Ding, ding, dong. Ding, ding, dong.)

WE ARE ALL ONE RACE

(To the tune of the "ABC Song")

We're all different, this we know,

(ABCDEFGG)

And the differences plainly show.

(HIJKLMNO,)

But, being different is not bad,

(QRSTU,)

The differences should make us glad!

(WXYZ.)

Because God tells us by His grace,

(Now I know my ABCs!)

We are all the human race!

(Next time won't you sing with me?)

Teacher says: What race do we ALL belong to?

Children answer: God's human race!

