

Noah and His Sons

Title:

Noah and His Sons

Goal/Objective:

Show how the account of Noah and his sons in Genesis 9:20-27 shows blessings and curses based on who and where we are.

Scripture Passages:

Genesis 9:20-27; 9:1, Psalm 144:15, and Ephesians 1:3

Genesis 9:20-27 (AV) 20 And Noah began *to be* an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: 21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. 23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid *it* upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces *were* backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. 24 ¶ And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. 25 And he said, Cursed *be* Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. 26 And he said, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. 27 God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

Psalms 144:15 (AV) 15 Happy *is that* people, that is in such a case: *yea*, happy *is that* people, whose God *is* the LORD.

Ephesians 1:3 (AV) 3 ¶ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

Materials:

Flannel board and figures or toys, etc. to represent characters; paper, pencils, pens or crayons

Introduction:

We will look what happens after Noah and his family leave the ark and see who gets blessed and who gets cursed and why.

Development Activities:

Read Genesis 9:20-27

Genesis 9:20-27 (AV) 20 And Noah began *to be* an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: 21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father; and told his two brethren without. 23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid *it* upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces *were* backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. 24 ¶ And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. 25 And he said, Cursed *be* Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. 26 And he said, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. 27 God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

Put figures on a flannel board to represent Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth and Canaan or use puppets or other figures to review the accounts of the story and help the students understand who is who.

Have the students give the order of events while you fill in with the aspects that show why and where one is blessed and another cursed.

Noah gets drunk. His son, Ham, sees him naked inside of his tent and tells his brothers. This shows Ham's disrespect for his father. Ham might have covered him or at least kept it to himself, but there is a juicy delight in getting to be the one who has news about someone—especially when that person, who is so used of God, fails. It can make us feel superior to see another's failure, and their exposure can cause us to look better to others. Shem and Japheth refused to participate but rather covered their father. When Noah awakes, he curses Canaan, Ham's son. Why did he not curse Ham? Perhaps the answer is in Genesis 9:1 where God blessed Noah and his sons. Perhaps Noah could not curse what God had blessed. So, was Canaan cursed because of Ham's sin? It would seem unfair if that were the case. There are many stories in the Bible that would seem unfair and harsh when we look at them without seeing the fulfillment in Christ. Was Ham's sin gossip? Disrespect? Ham's sin was that the LORD was not his God. The result of that sin was gossip and disrespect. If Ham, Canaan, or anyone else wants to increase in the eyes of others, this is in contrast with Christ who made himself of no reputation. Having our own reputation and identification apart from Christ is in direct conflict with the LORD. In that case, how can we be blessed? However, this story is a picture that shows that we are blessed in Christ. If we are not found in Him, we are cursed. There is no indication that Noah, the one who got drunk, was cursed. Noah probably was not pronouncing a curse on Canaan but simply stating an observation that he indeed was cursed. It is doubtful that Noah was pleased to see his grandson cursed. It is even more doubtful that the Lord is pleased to see us cursed. That is why He has a place in which we cannot be cursed. It becomes clear who is blessed. Notice that Noah doesn't bless Shem and Japheth. Noah blesses the LORD. Shem, because the LORD is his God, is found in that.

Psalm 144:15 "...Happy is that people, whose God is the LORD."

That word "happy" can be translated "blessed". Paul states, in Ephesians, with what and where we are blessed.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3)

Notice that the scripture does not say that if we become a Christian God will some day bless us with everything we want. It says that we are already blessed with all spiritual (not carnal) blessings in heavenly places. There is a place of blessings, and it is in Christ.

Noah puts Japheth in the tents of Shem. Why? There is a place where we are covered and safe. We have the benefits of all that Christ is because of our being placed in Him. Japheth would have the benefits of Shem by being placed where he lives.

This passage of scripture points to Him in Whom we have this blessing.

Practice:

Have each student give an example of possible scenario where a prominent person (whether in their own personal lives or as part of the local or larger communities) might fail in some way. What might be some of the reactions of those people closest to this person? Depending upon the age, have each student write or draw what happened in their scenario. Have each student read (or explain) the scenario. Then, have the rest of the class explain based on this account of Noah and his sons, who in the scenario would be cursed or blessed? (Keep in mind that it is not the actions that caused the blessing or curse—Noah was the one who got drunk, but it was not him who was cursed. Delve deep enough into the scenarios to get past the superficial reactions and get to the heart. **Is the LORD their God?** This will also help avoid tangents and separate issues of how to deal with individual circumstances.) The flesh and the carnal mind will automatically try to sidestep the issue and continue to point at the “Noah” of the scenario and how wrong he was or a vicious reaction as being “bad” while a kind reaction was “good”. There might even be an example of someone bringing up an issue at a prayer meeting for all to hear and pray for--we are not trying to determine an individual’s motives. The tendency is to resist coming to terms with ourselves by addressing all of these other issues. The issue is this: Is the LORD their God?

Is the LORD our God? Are we in Christ? Do we expect, apart from Christ, to be blessed if we are kind people. Do we see blessings as rewards for good behavior and curses the consequences of bad behavior?

Checking for Understanding:

Lead the class in prayer, praying for wisdom and the opportunity for each student to see an opportunity to apply what has been discussed. Ask each student to tell one thing that stood out to them about this story of Noah and his sons.

Independent Practice:

Send home the fun sheet with the hidden scripture (Eph 1:3).

Following are the words of Ephesians 1:3 all scrambled
Find the correct order and write it below.

?

?

Who

be the all Lord

blessings God with blessed

Christ blessed Father in

in spiritual of places us

our Jesus heavenly has and Christ
