



Grades 6-8: Week 7 (Dec 13, 2021)

Unit 4: The Chosen People - Sessions 14 & 15: God's Chosen People + God Calls Abraham
Missed Class Notes

- **Have students turn to page 95, My Family Tree, & fill out, in detail, as much as they can in 5 minutes.**
 - **Ask students** what they can learn about a person from examining his/her family tree?
 - **Point out** that the Bible includes many family trees, often before introducing important people or events. **Ask** why they think the authors of the Bible did this?
- **Explain:** *"There is an interesting way to look at the events of Genesis from the beginning of Creation in Genesis 1 up to the story of Abraham, which begins in Genesis 12, that we haven't yet considered. As we have already learned, after the events of the story of Cain & Abel, the human race essentially split into 2 'families': the descendants of Cain and the descendants of Adam and Eve's third son, Seth. To the descendants of Cain is attributed much of the wickedness and sin of humanity, while the descendants of Seth 'began to invoke the name of the Lord' (Gen 4:26). This means that the descendants of Seth remained faithful to God and honored His name. We can think of it this way: Cain and his descendants selfishly sought only to make a 'name' for themselves and to honor themselves. Whereas the descendants of Seth cared little for their own honor, and instead faithfully honored God and His name. The sinfulness of the line of Cain is very similar to the nature of the Original Sin of Adam & Eve, who, instead of honoring God and obeying Him, sought to honor themselves by taking the fruit from the tree of Knowledge of God and Evil. It's a good thing to be honored by other people for who we are and for our accomplishments. It's not so good a thing when we honor ourselves. It's one thing to enjoy our successes and to be happy, and another thing entirely to give in to the sin of pride, like Cain and His descendants. In this period of Scripture, we can now follow the line of Can, referred to as the sons and daughters of men, and the line of Seth, referred to as the sons and daughters of God."*
 - **HW: Read the essay of The Nephilim on page 96 & answer the questions that follow**
- **Explain:** *"Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, & Japheth. The name Shem literally means 'name.' The descendants of Seth before, 'called upon the name of God.' Honored Him, and were faithful to Him. Collectively, they became known as the Shemites, or the Semites, who are the Hebrew, or Jewish, people. The word Shemite means 'people of the name.' The word Semitic is still used today to refer to people of Jewish descent. Ham sinned against his father, Noah, and against God. His descendants became the enemies of the descendants of Shem. They were the Canaanites, the Babylonians, the Assyrians, and others that we will read about throughout the rest of the Old Testament. The descendants of Japheth mostly settled in what is today Europe. This family tree, while likely not ethnically accurate by today's standards, attempted to explain the different races and nationalities of the human race at the time of its authorship. It is interesting and important to note that, once again, the human race was divided into different lineages, who were not all faithful to God. In fact, we see that two of these lines descended from Noah were in conflict with each other. This brings us to the story of the Tower of Babel."*
 - **HW: read The Tower of Babel story on page 98 and complete questions that follow**
- **Explain:** *"God chose Abraham to be the father of His Chosen People. This means that the Chosen People, whom God would reveal Himself to throughout Salvation History and eventually come to and dwell among, as Jesus Christ, in order to bring salvation to the whole world, would be descended from Abraham. Abraham was chosen for something very special. Today we are going to learn about how God chose Abraham and the promises He made to him."*
- **Have students turn to page 191, God Chooses Abraham Reading Guide. Have a student read each paragraph, then ask the group to answer each question.**

- *Have students turn to page 103, God's Threefold Promise to Abram*
- **Use the attached catechist resource, God's Threefold Promise to Abram Guided Discussion to help the students answer the questions in their handbook.** Your guide provides the actual Bible verse(s) identified in the questions along with highlighting the answers found in those verses.
- **Homework:** pages 96-100; extra credit: 108-109