

## Activity Sheet, 25 November 2018

### God's plan for the nations

Genesis 10; Isaiah 19v18-25

- Wrong beliefs about nations cause conflict and oppression
- Nations feature prominently in the Bible and are part of God's plan

#### History of nations

- our history
- biblical history
- changing history
- complex history

- Which nation is missing in the list in Genesis 10? (a) Israel, (b) Canaan, (c) Assyria
- Why does it matter that you are descended from Noah's sons? [*Hint*: who is included in God's covenant after the flood, 9v8-11]
- "Lot saw a well watered land where today we find desert." True or false? (See Genesis 13v10)

#### **(1) Nations are good**

- image of God in humanity [Genesis 1v27]
  - individual and together
  - diversity and unity

- Paul says in Athens (Acts 17v26) that every nation is descended from \_\_\_ man?

#### **(2) Nations are fluid and fuzzy**

- e.g. Israel a mixture [Exodus 12v38]

▶ Don't hold your national identity too tightly

- In 10v5, v20, v31 the nations are defined by their, c \_\_\_ s, territory and languages.

#### **(3) Nations need a Saviour**

- God rules over all nations... [Deuteronomy 32v8, Jeremiah 1v10]  
...to preserve Israel...  
...to bring salvation to people of all nations

▶ In Christ national boundaries no longer divide [Galatians 3v28]

- "National identity will disappear in the new creation." True or false? (See Revelation 7v9)

#### **Questions for discussion:**

1. According to the Bible why are both racism and homosexuality wrong?
2. Is God interested in individuals or nations? What about them is the focus of the Bible?
3. What is important about our national identity? What are the dangers in holding it too tightly?
4. What is the root of racism? What is the answer? How does Proverbs 14v31, 17v5 relate to racism?
5. What are the problems of having different nationalities in a church? What are the benefits? How can national and cultural barriers be overcome?
6. How does Ebed-Melech compare to the Jewish king Zedekiah? (See Jeremiah 38v7-13, 39v15-18)

