



Trinity Community Church Sermon Discussion Questions
A Mixed Blessing
Genesis 9:18-10:32

Below are discussion questions designed to facilitate a deeper study of the passage. It is our hope that the word of God would “dwell richly in us” (Col 3:16) and bring transformation and fruit in our lives for the glory of God.

As parents we have the opportunity to create a foundation in our children’s lives either for God’s blessings or His judgment. Our actions will give them reason to either to honor or dishonor God and others. We see this in the life of Noah and his three sons and grandchildren. While Shem and Japheth chose to hide their father’s shamefulness Ham exposed and exploited it. Nothing is hidden from God who exposes Ham’s behavior and attitude by prophesying through Noah that Ham’s family line through his son Canaan will be enslaved in service to his other relatives. This curse of Canaan is harsh but not without its possible blessings.

1. When is the consumption of alcohol a sin? What effect can it have on a family?
2. Why would Shem and Japheth hide their father’s shame? Is it ever appropriate to expose another’s shame, especially when it’s within the family like a parent?
3. How do you think Noah’s shamefulness contributed to Ham’s shameful actions?
4. Even though a parent may act shamefully (or shamelessly), a child can still act honorably. What might God’s blessing look like in that son or daughter’s life and how might God use that for good? Think about the blessings that came through the family line of Shem (Abraham’s lineage).
5. The cursing of Canaan has been hard for believers through the ages to accept, especially since it was Ham, his father, who sinned. This curse is not without a glimmer of hope though. Just as Japheth is blessed through finding shelter in the “tents” of Shem, Canaan, though enslaved, is also to find a part in God’s blessings by staying connected to the family line of Shem. Read the section on the Gibeonites in Joshua 9:1-27. Why did they get included in the promises of Israel though the rest of the Canaanites did not?
6. How does God use the curses of life to bring people to the salvation of God? Share how God used your awareness of your sin and rebellion to draw you to Himself.