

MULTIETHNICITY



HEAR

Read Genesis 1: 26-28, Genesis 11: 1-9, Acts 2: 1-8, Revelation 7: 9-12

Scripture outlines a story of ethnicity: God's original purpose for ethnicity, how that had been damaged over time, and God's plan to redeem all our ethnicities. Read the following passage summaries below to track with some crucial points in the story of ethnicity in the Bible.

- How do people respond to cultural and/or language differences in these passages? How does God?
- Creator God, Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ are active participants throughout this story. How do you see them participating in these passages, and why is that significant?
- What do these passages tell you about God's character?



RESPOND

Go and do

Multiethnicity matters because it is an outpouring of the triune God's creativity in designing humankind in their own image! It is also a rich opportunity to practice loving one another in the different ways we reflect our Creator's image. Spend some time reflecting on your own community and brainstorm how you can display the value of multiethnicity in your life. Here are some suggestions:

- *Surrender to the scripture:* Why does multiethnicity matter to God? Where does culture come from? Who has a culture?
- *Be curious.* Think of a friend of a different ethnic background than your own. Take time this week to ask them about their ethnicity and how their ethnic background or culture has shaped them.
- *Practice honesty and forgiveness.* Have you caused or experienced an unresolved conflict due to a cultural difference between a friend or peer? Take a risk to name the grievance and offer forgiveness. Or listen to the grievance of another and be repentant. Look for Christ in the faces of those around you.
- *Extend hospitality.* In a truly multiethnic community, no one will always have their cultural preferences met. Everyone will be uncomfortable at least 20% of the time. Reflect on ways you can put aside your preferences to be hospitable to others in your community.



DEBRIEF

Reflect on what you learned

- How did you experience God as you tried one or more of the suggestions above? What was your experience of community?
- What can you celebrate about your own culture and the culture of others?
- How can you invite others into being curious, practicing honesty and forgiveness, and extending hospitality with you?