

Noah and the Flood
Lesson 05 of the Series: "Storm Stories"

1. Sin ruined the beautiful world God created.

"When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned." Romans 5:12 (NLT)

"Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse." Romans 8:20 (NLT)

2. Within a few generations the world became so wicked that God grieved having made us.

"The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, 'I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them.'" Genesis 6:5-7 (NIV)

Life Application: We must view sin as a deathly serious problem.

"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23 (NLT)

"But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all." Isaiah 53:5-6 (NLT)

3. God decided to restart the human race with the last righteous man and his family.

a. At God's command Noah built a gigantic lifeboat.

But Noah found favor with the LORD... Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth... So God said to Noah... "Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high... I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood. Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive. And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals." So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him. Genesis 6:8-22 (NLT)

Life Application: "... it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith." Hebrews 11:6-7 (NLT)

b. God sent a terrible storm to bring His judgment on our sinful world.

"When everything was ready, the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I can see that you alone are righteous... So Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him. He went on board the boat to escape the flood—he and his wife and his sons and their wives. With them were all the various kinds of animals... They entered the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah... all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights. For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth ... Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died... The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat... ten and a half months after the flood began, the floodwaters had almost dried up from the earth... Two more months went by, and at last the earth was dry! Then God said to Noah, "Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. Release all the animals... so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth." Genesis 7, 8:13-16 (NLT)

Life Application: God knows how to rescue godly people.

“God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God’s righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood... you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.” 2 Peter 2:5,9 (NLT)

Life Application: Obedience requires endurance. “Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.” Hebrews 10:36 (NLT)

4. Jesus warned that his return will catch many by surprise just like the flood did in Noah’s day.

“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. “Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.” Matthew 24:37-41 (NLT)

Life Application: We must be ready all the time. “So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.” Matthew 24:42-44 (NLT)

Life Application: We must carry out the work Jesus has left us to accomplish. “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. But what if the servant is evil and thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? The master will return unannounced and unexpected and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 24:45-50 (NLT)

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Discussion Questions

1. Read Hebrews 11:6-7. Looking back at your notes from this week's lesson on "Noah & the Flood" was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you? If God told you to spend the next 25 years building an ocean liner in Oklahoma because a great flood was going to cover the United States in 2041, would you do it? Why? Why not? Why does it take faith to please God? In what areas of your life is God calling you to trust Him more? What holds you back?
2. Read Genesis 6:5-22, Romans 3:23, 5:12 & 6:23. Why does God make such a big deal of sin? Why are we often casual about sin? Why didn't starting over with Noah's family permanently eliminate sin? What would you say to someone who claims that people are basically good?
3. Discuss the following lyrics from Keith Green's song, "He'll Take Care of the Rest":
"You just think about Noah, toting his umbrella when there wasn't a cloud in the sky. All his neighbors would laugh at his pet giraffe and they would snicker as he passed by. But the Lord said, 'Hey Noah, be cool, just keep building that boat. It's just a matter of time 'til they see who's gonna float. You just keep doing your best, and pray that it's blessed and I'll take care of the rest, I'm the weatherman!' The Lord said that He'll take care of the rest. He's gonna do it. He'll take care of the rest, Noah's neighbors blew it. He'll take care of the rest, He'll see you through it. He'll take care of the rest!"
Describe a time in your life when obeying God may have made you look foolish to some of your family, coworkers, friends or neighbors. What happened? What did you learn from the experience?
4. Read Isaiah 53:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:21 & 1 Peter 3:18. Why did Jesus' death on the cross permanently deal with sin when the flood couldn't? What did this cost God?
5. What do the following passages reveal to us about faith and endurance? (Hebrews 10:36, Galatians 6:9-10, James 5:11, Matthew 24:10-13) How strongly would you rate your faith? ... your endurance? (See Psalm 24:10 for a sobering check)
6. Read Matthew 24:36-50. When will Jesus come back? Why will many be surprised even though the Bible is available to more people than ever? Do you believe Jesus could return in our lifetime? Why? Why not? How should we be living in light of our beliefs? (see question 8)
7. Discuss the following passage from 2 Peter:
"Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, 'What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.' They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed. But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along." 2 Peter 3:3-12 (NLT)