

APPLICATION

Name a time in your life where God showed up for you in a big way. Name a time when the flood waters were rising, and God provided an ark of protection and lifted you up.

Read Genesis 6:1-7:24

- Why does God bring the flood on the Earth? Why is Noah set apart? How is the a lesson for us to live by?
- What is Noah's mission? How is this like Abrams? (Gen 22:18)
- Roughly how many verses do you see talking about the state of mankind? Key words like "violence", "destroy", "wicked", etc. What picture does this paint for us and of us?
- How does God warn Noah? How has God warned you?
- How does Noah respond to God's warning? How have you responded to God's warnings in the past?
- What would have happened if Noah hadn't listened to God?
- What major lessons can be learned from this story?
- What stood out to you the most in this week's sermon?

Inductive Bible Study

- Highlight "walked with God" in Genesis 5:22 and 6:9
- Underline Genesis 6:22 and 7:5
- Circle the word "covenant" in Genesis 9:9-11
- Reference Genesis 1:28 in the margin next to 9:1

For Parents:

God demonstrates his power and realness *in* creation all the time. Our God is a God that works *in* this world at special times. Next time you see a rainbow point out to your children what it means and tell the story of God's flood and his covenant to his people. What other phenomenon can you use to tell other God stories to your children?

*Bonus Tip: get a bowl of small smooth stones and write on different ones an important moment for you and your family. Use these as family remembrance stones. Keep them on the dining room table. Pull one out each dinner and retell the story of that moment, or the lesson learned, or the victory gained, or how you saw God show up.



Noah Story Pt.1 • Session 9

Everyone has heard the story of Noah's ark. If you grew up in church you probably remember the felt boards and cartoon cut-outs of Noah and his family smiling on the boat with all the happy animals: giraffes, elephants, lions, and gazelles. This picture of a zoo is fine for children but is that the right picture we, as adults, should have? Is the story of the flood a story of happy animals or something else?

After the creation account in Genesis one, the first great story was of Adam and Eve and their grave fall into sin and disobedience. Then the next story was of the first murder. Cain in selfish anger killed his brother Abel. Now the third great story of the Bible is the flood narrative, and it begins with "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" (Genesis 6:5-6). Do you see the pattern here?

Things are not going well for mankind. We have spiraled out of control. All of us, not just a few bad apples but the whole of the world, has gone wrong. And God won't have it! This is his world. We are his creation. It is all subject to his will and power. He rules the world, not us. As humans filled the Earth with cities, and technology, and creative endeavors, we also filled it with sin unbound and out of control! God patiently watched it all happened and then there came a point where he would watch no longer. There came a point where he would allow no more. There came a point where he would respond!

BIG IDEA: God will not allow sin and corruption to destroy his good world. He will be the perfect judge and judge the secrets of men's hearts.

I. God sees the sin in your heart

Remember back to Genesis one when God "saw" all things and called them good (Genesis 1:18,21,25,31). Now what does God see (Genesis 6:5)? God sees the sin of humankind. God is the creator who sees the goodness of his own work, but he is also the perfect judge who sees the evil intentions our hearts. Just like the stories in Genesis we too go from pride to violence to wickedness very quickly!

God sees the sin of human hearts. He sees the wars and horrors and things done, *but he also sees the internal things*. He sees what is in us just as much as what happens outside of us. He sees our

inclinations and desires and agendas. He sees both failed actions and internal dispositions. This is a scary thing to consider because we have all sinned (Romans 3:23, 1st Peter 2:25, Matthew 15:8). Some of us have done wrong to others and failed outwardly, some of us inwardly, allowing sin to fester in our hearts, but we all have sinned regardless.

II. God's Response

Our only way forward is to give our hearts and hurts over to the judge who will judge fairly (2nd Timothy 4:8, James 4:12, Revelation 19:2)! God's response to our sin is that he is grieved and in pain. This

truth is most viscerally demonstrated on the cross, but it is equally true every time we sin and seen even now in the story of Noah. Our

sin hurts him, and he is determined against it! In the flood narrative we see God washing away the sin of humans through a terrible flood.

In the New Testament we still see God washing away sin but washing it by the power of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5) and by his perfect blood

shed (Hebrews 9:14, 10:22, 1st Peter 3:21). The flood story is a story of sin begin destroyed by water. In it we see a perfect God making

painful decisions about sinful humanity he loves. He chose to wash it all away. To start over. In one singular instance of his destructive

force, we see God unleash his fury against the sin and corruption of mankind. So, there is an age-old question: why would a loving and

holy God allow sin and suffering? Why would he suffer for our sins?

III. Covenant of Salvation

God did not need us, but once he made us and brought us into this world, he knit his heart with ours. God allows suffering because he has already promised himself to us. He has covenanted with

humans. His suffering is now tied to ours because he loves us. God allows suffering and enters into suffering himself because he has

committed himself to his people, past, present, and future. ***Before*** the rains come and all life is destroyed, God told Noah to build an ark

and that He would establish a covenant with him (Genesis 6:18, 9:1, 9:9-11). God will destroy sin, and death, and wickedness, but he will

also save his people whom he loves! In the flood the waters that destroyed corruption are the same waters that lifted high those who

trusted in him! They were protected by an impossibly large ark, which God shut them in. (Genesis 7:16-17). The Bible is thankfully more than

three chapters long. God was committed to you long before the foundation of the world (Genesis 28:15). He won't leave you nor

forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6). He will be with you till the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). There may be floods in your life, but there

is also an ark of protection and a day of salvation for us who believe.

God's awesome power that was displayed in creation, is that same awesome power now displayed in terrible destruction... But it is also that same power displayed in wonderful salvation!

