

Bible Stories for Adults

God Makes a Covenant with Noah

Genesis 6 - 9

Opening

Gathering: What glimmers of faithfulness and hope have you seen in the midst of evil?

Today's Focus: God cleansed the world of widespread evil but showed His love for His creation by saving a remnant.

Key Verses: *I now establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you.* Genesis 9:9

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor My covenant of peace be removed. Isaiah 54:10

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Generations (*Genesis 5*)

What was the typical lifespan during the first 1656 years of human history?

Genesis 5 = (skim, don't read) around 900 years – 9 generations (Lamech) before Adam died

How and why was this changed? = *Sons of God* – faithful/line of Seth; *d. of men* – evil/line of Cain (?)

Genesis 6:1-3 = God decided to limit man to 120 years

What was the typical lifespan between Noah and Abraham and beyond?

Genesis 11:10-32 = (skim) 200-600 yrs N-A, 100-200 A-Joseph, 70-80 past Moses

How did Enoch die, and why?

Genesis 5:24 = Enoch walked with God, never died, God took him away

How did Methuselah die? = *Methuselah* means "*when he is dead, it shall come*"

Genesis 5:25-29, 7:11 = He drowned in the flood at 969 yrs old

World-Wide Wickedness (*Genesis 6:5-9*)

How was man affected by the sin that had entered God's creation?

Genesis 6:5 = *every inclination of man's heart was only evil all the time!*

What did God decide to do as His judgment? = God was grieved and *His heart was filled with pain*

Genesis 6:6-7 = *I will wipe mankind from the face of the earth*

How did God follow this judgment with His grace?

Genesis 6:17-18 = He saved Noah and his family

Why did God save Noah out of all people?

Genesis 6:8-9 (also 7:1) = He walked with God (like Enoch)

Did the Flood Wash Away the Wickedness? (*Luke 11:29-32; Matthew 12:39-45*)

Did the flood eliminate all wickedness from the earth?

Luke 11:29a = The "generation" that followed was wicked

How wicked was the old covenant generation of whom Jesus was speaking?

Luke 11:31-32 = Even condemned by non-Jews (Sheba) and pagans (Ninevites)

What was God's judgment for this wickedness?

Luke 11:50-51 = They will be held responsible as enemies of God

Did Jesus offer any promise of God's grace in His message of judgment?

Matthew 12:39-40 = The saving act of Christ's death and resurrection

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Did Wickedness Go Away After Jesus? (*Romans 1*)

Did Jesus' act eliminate all wickedness from the earth?

Romans 1:21, 29-32 = Continued in Paul's time; Obviously still in our time

After thousands of years of wickedness, has God just washed His hands and given up?

Romans 1:18-20, 24, 28 = No, His wrath is being revealed; ignorance of God is no excuse

How is giving men over to their sinful desires a result of God's wrath?

Matthew 12:43-45 = He allows Satan to drive them deeper into wickedness

God's Wrath (*Romans 2-3*)

Is this the extent of God's judgment on the world's wickedness?

Romans 2:5-9 = The evil who reject the truth will eventually see God's wrath and anger

How does Peter describe God's wrath and anger?

2 Peter 3:5-7, 10-12 = The heavens and earth as we know them will be destroyed

Are Peter and Paul saying we must be good to escape God's wrath of eternal damnation?

Romans 3:9-12, 20 = Yes, but no man has been good enough in God's eyes

So how can we escape God's wrath?

Romans 3:21-24 = Accept the grace of God that comes through faith in Jesus Christ

God's Plan (*Genesis 6:12-16*)

Was the flood just an accidental occurrence?

Genesis 6:12-13 = No, God had a plan

Was God's plan only one of judgment?

Genesis 7:1-4 = No, it was one of grace and salvation - saved His creation from wickedness

What larger plan of God's does this point towards?

Ephesians 1:9-10 = *To bring all things in heaven and on earth under one head - Jesus*

Who is the select family that God has chosen to receive His grace in this larger plan?

Ephesians 1:11-14 = Us, We are considered righteous and included because we have faith

How concerned was God about His plan to save Noah?

Genesis 6:14-16 = Had a very detailed plan

Was God concerned with details in His plan to send the Messiah?

Galatians 4:4-5 = All history prepared for His coming in the *fullness of time*

Living Within God's Plan (*Genesis 6:22*)

Could Noah have predicted the flood and prepared to save himself without God telling him?

Genesis 6:22 = No, he needed and heeded God's warning and instructions

How are we to know the details of God's plan for our own lives?

1 Corinthians 2:7-13 = We cannot know without heeding the teachings of the Spirit

Why did Noah build this huge boat on dry land despite looking foolish to his neighbors?

Hebrews 11:7 = By faith Noah built the ark, *Heir to the righteousness that comes by faith*

Why would we live faithfully and obediently to God despite appearing foolish to our neighbors?

1 Corinthians 1:18, 21-25, 30-31 = This "foolishness" is God's wisdom and our redemption

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The Ark (*Genesis 6:14*)

What was the purpose of the ark?

Genesis 6:19 = To save lives

What is our ark that saves our lives? = Enter through the door of baptism

1 Peter 3:18-22 = We are saved by the resurrection of Christ

What materials were used to build the ark?

Genesis 6:14 = Cypress wood - very common and durable, pitch - tight seal from deadly water

Note: The Hebrew word for "pitch" is same as used for "atonement" (covering)

What is significant about the ark being made of a common durable wood and pitch (atonement)?

Hebrews 2:17-18 = Jesus was a common man, durable against sin for our atonement

Who built the ark? = Project took a lot of cost and time and work, God provided for Noah, even at 600

Genesis 7:5-6 = Noah worked with the blessings God gave him to do God's work

Does God really need our help to accomplish His work?

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 = God accomplishes His work through us, His fellow workers

Holes in the Ark (*Genesis 6:16*)

How did Noah, his family and the animals get into the ark?

Genesis 6:16 = Through a single door on one side

Is there more than one way for us to enter the ark of salvation?

John 14:6 = Jesus is the only way, there is no other

Was the door too small to allow all animals to get in?

Genesis 7:8-9 = Members of ALL animals were able to enter by grace of being selected

Is the door to salvation limited to fit only the least sinful?

1 Timothy 1:15 = The door is large enough for even the biggest sinner to enter, if he comes

How did Noah get this large door to close and seal tight?

Genesis 7:16 = The Lord shut him in

The door protected Noah from the evil and deadly waters. How does Jesus, our door, protect us?

John 17:11, 15 = He intercedes with the Father on our behalf to protect us from evil

What did the closed door mean to those outside of the ark?

Luke 17:26-27 = They were locked out of God's grace and destroyed in God's judgment

What parable did Jesus tell to explain that not all will enter the door?

Luke 13:23-28 = The parable of the narrow door; Must be known by the owner to enter

How did God care for Noah's welfare while closed in the ark for over a year?

Genesis 6:16 = Had him build windows in the top to let in light and fresh air

How can we look to heaven and be renewed when we feel closed in and wasting away like Noah?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 = Fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen

The Flood (*Genesis 7:17-8:5*)

How big of a flood did God send? = 40 days (40 means *generation* to a Hebrew)

Genesis 7:17-20, 23 = Every land was covered, there was no way to survive

How long did the earth stay flooded? = 150 days (5 months) until ark rested on mountaintop

Genesis 8:3-5 = 1st day of 10th month - 225 days (7.5 months) from start

How long did Noah and his family live on the ark?

Genesis 8:13-14 = Until 27th day of 2nd month - 371 days

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Back on Dry Ground (*Genesis 8:13-20*)

- How did Noah know when to get out of the ark?
Genesis 8:15-17 = God told him to come out
- What was the first thing Noah did after leaving the ark?
Genesis 8:18-20 = He built an altar and sacrificed to God
- Wouldn't Noah eliminate species by sacrificing clean animals?
Genesis 7:2-3 = Noah took 7 pairs of each clean animal and each bird
- What does this say about the sacrifices and offerings we give to God?
1 Chronicles 29:14 = They first came from God – we can only return what is first His

God's Response (*Genesis 8:21-9:7*)

- How did God respond to Noah's worshipful sacrifice?
Genesis 8:21 = Said He'd never again curse the ground or destroy animals, despite sinfulness
- What else did God decide to sustain?
Genesis 8:22 = All creation - nature's cycles and seasons
- How did man's relation to animals change?
Genesis 9:2-3 = Animals will fear man, man can eat animals
Genesis 1:29 = Man before only ate plants
- Since man could now kill, what did God command against and why?
Genesis 9:5-6 = Cannot kill another man since he is made in God's image
- What did God command to restore his creation?
Genesis 9:7 (see 1:28) = *Be fruitful and increase in number*

God's Covenant (*Genesis 9:8-17*)

- With whom did God make a covenant?
Genesis 9:8-10 = Noah, his descendants (all people) and all creatures
- What was God's promise under the covenant?
Genesis 9:11 = There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth
- What sign or signature guaranteed this covenant?
Genesis 9:12-17 = God's rainbow in the clouds
- What signature has God given guaranteeing our future with Him under the new covenant of Jesus?
2 Corinthians 1:21-22 = *Put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come*

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When has my heart been filled with evil inclinations? (*Genesis 6:5; 8:21; Exodus 32:22; Psalm 14:1-3; Isaiah 5:20; 55:7-9; Jer 4:14; Ezekiel 33:10-20; Matthew 15:16-20; Romans 3:9-20*)
2. When have I felt God's righteousness at work in my life? (*Genesis 6:8-9; 2 Samuel 22:21-25; Job 1:1, 8; Psalm 15; 19:12-14; 34:13-22; Proverbs 2:7-8; Romans 4; Galatians 3:12*)
3. What examples have I seen that evil begets evil? (*1 Kings 12:13-15; 16:30-33; Psalm 81:11-12; Ezekiel 18; Matthew 12:43-45; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 5:6-13; Ephesians 4:19*)
4. What parts of God's plan for my life has He made clear to me that I don't fully understand? (*Gen 6:22; 50:20; Ex 3:1-4:17; Job 42:1-3; 1 Cor 2:6-16; Phil 4:7; Heb 11:7-13; 1 Peter 1:10-12*)
5. What special ways have I shown my praise to God in response to His lovingkindness to me? (*Genesis 8:20; 14:17-20; Exodus 15:1-21; Numbers 6; Joshua 6:20-21; 1 Chronicles 29; Luke 17:11-19; Acts 4:32-37*)