

mist that rose up to water the earth. And since the only workers were Noah and his family it took at least 75 years to complete. Noah had plenty of time to question God, but he didn't.

14 "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. ... 17 "And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which [is] the breath of life; everything that [is] on the earth shall die. 18 "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark--you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ... 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did. - Genesis 6:14, 17-18, 22 NKJV

We live in a culture of entitlement- "I have needs", "I have opinions", "I can think for myself". But God isn't looking for our input, He wants our hearts and our obedience. We demonstrate our faith by trusting God.

*When we choose obedience rather than opposition to God, we are bucking the cultural norms. Obedience looks ridiculous in a culture of self-focused opposition. What are some of the choices you have wrestled with in choosing between opposition and obedience to God?*

After the flood receded God made a covenant with Noah that this won't happen again. Even though mankind will continue to fail, God is faithful.

### **WRAP-UP**

The story of Noah is much more than an account of animals on an ark—it highlights humanity's tendency to turn away from God and the consequences that follow. As sin and violence spread across the earth, God grieved over the corruption of His creation and brought judgment through the flood, symbolically returning the world to the chaotic waters that existed before creation. Yet alongside judgment, God demonstrated grace by rescuing Noah and his family, offering a fresh start and a picture of restoration. The account challenges us to consider God's character, His commitment to justice, and the importance of trusting and obeying Him even when doing so seems difficult or countercultural.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ... 17 So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth." - Genesis 9:13, 17 NIV*

**Challenge** – Read the whole story of Noah in Genesis chapters 6 – 9.

## **The Oldies- Week 2 Noah**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This week we are looking at the story of Noah, but not through the images of a child's storybook with giraffes and zebras peeking out of a boat. The story of Noah was a sad commentary on how sinful humanity has a propensity to separate themselves from God, and the consequences of that choice. The themes of sin, judgment and re-creation are repeated throughout the bible. Genesis chapter 6-9 describes the flood as the de-creation of the world—the earth sinks back into the chaotic waters that God cleared away on page one of the Bible. God offers Noah's family an escape through the flood unharmed to start afresh in a world returned to innocence. Noah is like a new version of Adam, and the earth is Eden 2.0. But what does this reveal about God and what are we to learn from it?

### **Ice Breaker**

**What is one song you could listen to over and over, and what is one song you never want to hear again?**

### **Key Passage**

*5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created--and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground--for I regret that I have made them." - Genesis 6:5-7 NIV*

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Like a Song on Repeat**

Before we are introduced to Noah, the first few verses of chapter six give us some context by describing the condition of mankind. The wickedness unleashed in the Fall started a downward spiral into violence and disaster.

*1 When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. - Genesis 6:1-2 NIV*

In Genesis 1:28 God told man('ādām) to be fruitful and multiply (rābâ), and in Gen 6:1 men('ādām) increased in number(rābab). Eve saw (rā'â) that the fruit of the tree was good/beautiful (tôb) and the Sons of God saw (rā'â) that women were beautiful (tôb). Eve took (lāqah) the fruit and ate it, and The Sons of God took (lāqah) wives, whomever they chose.

*How would you describe the pattern from Gen 1 that is being repeated in Gen 6:1-2?*

Man was multiplying as God instructed, but instead of caring for God's creation, whatever was good was being taken for personal gain. That wasn't God's plan. He intended Man to steward His creation, not destroy it.

*3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days--and also afterward--when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. - Genesis 6:3-4 NIV*

There is some debate as to who "the sons of God" are and what were Nephilim. The most probable and widely accepted answer is that "Sons of God" were spiritual beings seeking to cause destruction and disorder in God's world. Among other references, they are seen with Satan in Job 1:6 and Job 2:1. When they took human wives their offspring were the giants called Nephilim.

*How were these spiritual-human hybrids viewed by the world? What do you think appealed to the people about the Nephilim? Why would "fallen angels" want to cause destruction of mankind? Whose image would Nephilim reflect?*

## 2. Judgment + Grace

*5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. - Genesis 6:5-6 NIV*  
*32 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it." - Genesis 18:32 NIV*

When Abraham was told that the Lord was about to destroy Sodom because of their wickedness, he pleaded on behalf of any righteous who lived there. God said for the sake of 10 righteous He wouldn't destroy

them. But 10 righteous men were not found in Sodom, and according to the Gen 6:5 every thought of every heart was only evil all the time in the days of Noah.

*What was God's reaction to the condition of man's heart? Have you ever experienced that response to someone you love? How is this different from anger towards man? Why would it be incongruent with God's nature to ignore their wickedness and allow His creation to continue along the path they were following?*

*8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - Romans 5:8 NIV*

*6 And he(Abram) believed the LORD, and he(LORD) counted it to him as righteousness. - Genesis 15:6 ESV*

*8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.- Genesis 6: 8-9 NIV*

God was committed to restoring the goodness of His creation. But He also extended mercy and grace, offering unmerited salvation to one family. Noah found favor/grace in the eyes of the Lord. Gen. 6:5 doesn't list Noah as an exception. All had sinned. But in Gen 6:8 God extends grace (hēn) to Noah.

*Based on Rom 5:8 and Gen 15:6, how could Noah be called a righteous man? If Christ died for us while we were sinners, on what basis can we be called righteous?*

*26 "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. - Luke 17:26-30 NIV*

Unfortunately, Noah's faithfulness was short-lived, and Noah and his descendants fell back into the sinful patterns of the human heart. We see God's judgment and de-creation of Sodom, and Jesus prophesied that the ultimate de-creation and restoration of heaven and earth would be seen when He is revealed at His second coming. But God remains faithful. He offers us the gift of salvation and withholds judgment until everyone has chosen how to respond.

## 3. Opposition or Obedience

When God told Noah to build an ark He provided specific instructions.  
What made it challenging? Up to that time there had not been rain, only