****

**THE FLOOD**

**Story:** Noah and the ark

**Scriptures to study:** Genesis 6-9

This discussion is based on the Friday Morning Men’s Fellowship study “Genesis”, available at <https://leadmin.org/genesis>.

As the population of the earth continues to grow, mankind becomes more and more engrossed in their own sinful desires. The Bible records, “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. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled” (Genesis 6:5-6).

**The wages of sin.** Earlier in Genesis we saw that the price of sin was “spiritual death”—the removal of God’s presence. Now we see that sin also results in physical death. Genesis 6:11-13 says, “Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, ‘I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.’” In the New Testament we see a parallel teaching in Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death…”

**The opposite of sin.** God found Noah and his family to be good, because Noah obeyed God. Genesis 6:9 says, “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.” This is first time the word “righteous” is mentioned in the Bible. God is declaring what pleases Him is *righteousness coram Deo,* or “righteousness in the presence of God”. We have read that sin is anything that displeases God, now we are seeing what is pleasing to God. We read that Noah “walked with God”—this denotes spending daily time with God, listening to His voice, learning from Him, and doing things in obedience of God. A number of times in Genesis 6-9, God gives Noah instructions, and the Bible records, “Noah did as God commanded.”

**With obedience, a promise.** God destroys everyone who is sinful with the flood. He destroys the people, but spares the animals, because animals are not sinful. And God spares Noah and his family, because Noah obeyed the Lord and walked with him, and was therefore righteous in the eyes of God. After the flood, God promises to bless Noah, and promises not to destroy the world by flood again. God says, “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though[a] every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done” (Genesis 8:21). Notice that God states that the sinfulness of man remains, ever after the flood.



Use one of these to get the group talking about today’s topic:

* Have you ever owned a boat, or gone out on a boat for a day? Did you like it or dislike it? What about sports like fishing, waterskiing? Ever been on a cruise? What’s your relationship with boats and the water?
* What is your daily routine in personal development? What do you engage in to better yourself and your leadership?
* Who influenced you when you were young? Did you get good or bad advice growing up, and how did it affect you as you became an adult?



Go in-depth with these questions. Based on your available time, choose 3-4 that you believe are most thought-provoking:

* Read Genesis 6:5-7. What was the state of the world at this time? How does this compare to the state of the world today? What evidence to you have for your thoughts on this?
* Read Genesis 6:8-9. What was God’s attitude toward Noah and his family? What made Noah pleasing in the eyes of God? What makes a leader pleasing in the eyes of God today?
* How can a leader “walk faithfully with God” today? What are some actions and practices of a faithful walk with God?
* What can a leader do to live faithfully in a world filled with sin?
* What do you think it means for a man to be “righteous” in the eyes of God? Is this something you can do and influence others toward as a leader?
* Where is God’s anger with sin expressed today? Is God doing anything to deal with the sinfulness of man in our culture?
* Read Genesis 8:20-21. Why do you think God promises not to destroy the earth by flood again, even though the sinfulness of man remains?



* How is your daily “walk with God”? Do you have a routine of Bible study, prayer and mentoring? What might you change this week to make your daily walk more robust and effective?
* Would you consider yourself a righteous person? How could you grow in leadership to reflect righteousness in your life and work?
* Is there anything in your leadership where God has given you clear instruction and you have yet to obey? How could you be more like Noah, who heard God and “did as God commanded”?



• Commentary on Genesis 6: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Gen/Gen_006.cfm>

• What does Genesis 6 mean? <https://www.bibleref.com/Genesis/6/Genesis-chapter-6.html>

• *Study Guide for Genesis 6* by Chuck Smith: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/smith_chuck/StudyGuides_Genesis/Genesis.cfm>

• Precept outline and commentary on Genesis 6: <https://www.preceptaustin.org/genesis-6-commentary>

• *Genesis 1-11: Creation, Sin, and the Nature of God* by John MacArthur: <https://churchsource.com/products/genesis-1-to-11-creation-sin-and-the-nature-of-god>

• *Exalting Jesus in Genesis* by Phillip Bethancourt: <https://www.amazon.com/Exalting-Genesis-Christ-Centered-Exposition-Commentary/dp/0805496556/>

• *Genesis: A 12 Week Study* by Mitchell M. Kim: <https://www.amazon.com/Genesis-12-Week-Study-Knowing-Bible/dp/1433535017>

• *BibleProject Guides: Book of Genesis:* <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-genesis/>

**More ways to apply “The Flood” to your life and leadership:**

• Is there anyone in your life or leadership from whom you have been withholding forgiveness? Consider how you might schedule a time to meet at “bury the hatchet.”

• Look to your daily faith discipline and consider if your routine is a healthy “walk with God.”

• Get on an annual Bible reading plan, where you are reading Scripture every day.

• Look for a rainbow. The next time you see one, resolve to thank God for His promise to Noah never again to destroy the earth by flood.

• Write out a plan for how you as a leader can move or motivate people within your sphere of influence to give their best effort, and to avoid sins against one another.

• Consider how your business or company might be a Gospel influence with your employees, customers or in your community.

• Get involved in prayer ministry at your local church.