AN ARK | GOD’S GOOD PURPOSE

WEEK 5: GENESIS 6-9

ANCHOR PASSAGES.

Consider using these passages as underpinnings for your group’s conversation. Encourage your group to read and pray through these Scripture passages prior to your group meeting and in the days following.

**Genesis 6:5-8**

**5**The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **6**And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. **7**So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” **8**But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

**Genesis 9:8-17**

**8**Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, **9**“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, **10**and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. **11**I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” **12**And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: **13**I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. **14**When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, **15**I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. **16**When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” **17**God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**Helpful Passages:**

* Hebrews 11:7
* Genesis 7:11-8:5
* Genesis 8:20-9:7

THEMES.

The following themes follow the high-level movement of this week’s Scripture passage. They may help you begin to frame the direction of your group’s conversation.

1. God is grieved by the wicked, but gracious toward the righteous. (Gen. 6:5-8)
2. Unrepentant sinners face the judgement of God; God’s grace is our only hope.[[1]](#footnote-1) (Gen. 6:9-8:19)
3. Faith in God is demonstrated by obedience to his commands. (Gen. 6:22; Heb. 11:7)
4. God’s common grace is shown to all through the covenant to Noah; however, only those who place their faith in Jesus Christ experience his saving grace. (Gen. 8:20-9:17)

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week’s Scriptures.

1. Describe a time in your life when you trusted God amid difficult circumstances. Did you experience God’s care and help for you during that time? How?
2. Why did God flood the earth? How does the Bible describe God’s hatred of sin? (Gen. 6:5-8, 11-13)

Commentators agree that Genesis 6:6 speaks of God’s emotions in an *anthropomorphic* sense, meaning the words are an attribution of human characteristics to God. “Regret” and “grief” are man’s descriptions highlighting the intensity of God’s hatred of sin. Make no mistake, He was not caught off guard by sin’s prevalence, nor did he change his mind about his good design. Those words highlight his disgust toward the wickedness of sin.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. In general, does sin grieve you or are you content to ignore it? Does your view of sin change based upon whether you’ve sinned against another or another has sinned against you? What sins might you be content to ignore?
2. How is God’s justice visible in the flood? How are his mercy and grace visible toward Noah? (Gen. 6:5-8; 9:7-18)

In Genesis 6:8, *favor* can also be translated as *grace*. In fact, a commonly used definition of grace is “unmerited favor.” Consider an alternate translation of the verse.

**Genesis 6:8** - **8**But Noah found *grace* in the eyes of the Lord. (NKJV)

1. How have you experienced God’s grace in your life? How about this past week?

*Grace Story* – Embracing the fullness of the gospel and being transformed by it in such a way that we desire to live out and share God's message with others.

1. How does the covenant found in Genesis 9:8-17 reveal God’s grace to all men?

Hint: this is an example of *common grace*. Here is a helpful definition of common grace from Sam Storms:

“Common grace, as an expression of the goodness of God, is every favor, falling short of salvation, which this undeserving and sin-cursed world enjoys at the hand of God; this includes the delay of wrath, the mitigation of our sin-natures, natural events that lead to prosperity, and all gifts that humans use and enjoy naturally.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. How can a Biblical view of sin, grace, and God’s covenant to Noah strengthen our missional activity?

*Personal Mission* – Understanding the mission of God and discovering how He has uniquely gifted me to love and serve His church and the places where I live, work, and play.

PRAY.

Consider using the themes of this passage as a pattern for prayer together.

* Ask for requests from your group. Pray that they would be able to trust God even in difficult times.
* Ask that God’s gracious care would be visible in their lives.
* Pray for boldness in our missional activity. Pray for friends, family members, and co-workers by name.

1. J. Ligon Duncan. “A World of Corruption and God’s Singular Grace.” *First Presbyterian Church | Jackson, MS*, September 8, 1998, Retrieved from https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/a-world-of-corruption-and-god-s-singular-grace/. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. J. Ligon Duncan. “A World of Corruption and God’s Singular Grace.” *First Presbyterian Church | Jackson, MS*, September 8, 1998, Retrieved from https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/a-world-of-corruption-and-god-s-singular-grace/. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Sam Storms. “The Goodness of God and Common Grace.” *The Gospel Coalition*, Retrieved from https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/

   goodness-god-common-grace/. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)