Session 2: It's Gonna Rain	
SESSION GOALS	
Every session has specific goals—things you want your group to walk away knowing, feeling, and committing to do.	
Main Idea Since God is just and merciful, powerful in judgment, and generous in grace, we can trust him and his progressive plan to save his people.	
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Head Change To know that God cares about right and wrong	
and is faithful to judge sin even as he, in his mercy, has made a way for us to find forgiveness.	
Heart Change	
To feel confidence in God's righteous character through the challenging process of his plan.	
Life Change	
To not fear God's judgment of sin but instead	
trust in his mercy toward those who repent.	

<u>OPEN</u>	
When have you had a plan—maybe for a work	
project, a trip, or a weekend—go awry? How did you react?	
Our plans rarely unfold like we think they will. But can God's plans fall apart? Genesis began with	
God's glorious creativity in how he formed the world and molded humans in his image. The	
beauty of intimate friendship with God, however,	
was not enough for our first parents, and their sin fractured the perfection of creation. Their sons	
inherited and perpetuated a self-centered	
perspective that culminated in death.	
The first few chapters of Genesis tell us that,	
through subsequent generations, godliness	
waned while evil increased. It looks like the plan has gone awry—but it hasn't. As we open session	
two, God is ready to deal with sin emphatically.	
Charlie will show us God's plan to both judge sin and save his people.	
and save inspeople.	
READ	
Read Genesis 6–7. If you don't have time to read	
the entire passage, read 6:1–13; 7:1–10, 17–24.	
Note : We have made a daily reading guide for	
the book of Genesis so that you can read this	
section and understand the context of this book. You can find the reading plan at the end of this	
study in Go Deeper Section 3.	

<u>WATCH</u>	
Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Charlie Dates's	
teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.	
What is sin?	
In what way was the building of the ark an act	
of faith?	
Show Session 2: It's Gonna Rain (11 minutes).	

DISCUSS	
The story of Noah should come with a warning label: it is less a child's tale of animals marching	
two by two and more a horror story of evil's	
destruction.	
Read Genesis 6:1–13.	
God was displeased with the "sons of God" taking	
"any they chose" from among the daughters of	
men. Scholars disagree on exactly who these sons	
of God and daughters of men were, but the text clearly states that God did not approve of their	
behavior. Contrast their behavior with Genesis	
2:24. How does God view sexual unity between men and women? Why would the sons of God	
in Genesis 6 displease him?	
Sexual sin was not the only wickedness on the	
earth. Look back at Genesis 4:23–24. Here,	
Lamech boasts about his vindictiveness. What attitudes do you see reflected in his words?	
How does his behavior indicate a heart far	
from God?	
Genesis 4–6 show how people had progressively	
spiraled into lifestyles defined by sin. Finally,	
God's patience was at an end, and he was ready to start over. In 6:7 he lamented, "I regret that I	
made them." What a difficult, grievous conclusion	
for God to make. What feelings arise when you think of God regretting that he even created	
humans?	
Why would a sinful world cause God such regret?	
He created a world and put humans in it to care	
for it and each other, and when they began to pervert justice, calling right wrong and wrong	
right, he waited. He gave them generations to	
turn back to him. But they continued to reject	

him and his ways, and eventually, he exercised his	
innate right to judge evil. How do you feel when	
you think of God as a judge? In what ways	
does his acting as judge fit or contrast with	
knowing him as a loving God?	
But verses 8–9 offer a glimmer of hope: Noah	
found favor in the eyes of the Lord. What	
evidence is given in these two verses	
regarding Noah's faith?	
Whom do you know who walks with God as	
Noah did? What have you learned about God	
-	
and faith through that person?	
Charlie introduced Noah by pointing out that	
God asked him to do something "mysterious and	
abnormal." Building an escape vehicle from an	
unseen, unknown judgment required a lot of	
faith! Noah demonstrated his trust in God by	
obeying what must have seemed cryptic and	
maybe even a little crazy. How have you reacted	
when you felt God pointing you in a direction	
that had no clear ending?	
that had no clear ending:	
Charlie emphasized that God's means are often	
as important as his end. The process is part of the	
plan. When you've obeyed God in faith, not	
knowing the result, how did the journey to the	
end influence your relationship with God?	
What did you learn?	
Read Genesis 6:14–7:24.	
7.E I.	
As God explained his plan to judge sin by	
destroying the world and all its inhabitants, he	
offered Noah specific plans on building his mode	
of salvation. Who and what would be saved	
along with Noah? How did Noah respond in	
verse 22?	

Re-read 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16. When a biblical author repeats a word or phrase, readers are supposed to understand that the author is emphasizing something specific. What identical phrase appears in each verse? Why do you think the author wants readers to notice Noah's faithfulness?

Noah's faithfulness stands in stark contrast to the wickedness of the people around him. The Flood story highlights God's mercy in saving Noah's family, but it does not shy away from depicting the deadly judgment that faced every other person. Charlie painted a word picture of the drowning people calling out for help as the ark drifted by. It was too late for them, he said, and one day the world "will face a storm of judgment." God will not allow sin and evil to reign on earth forever. In what ways is God's future judgment of evil and sin comforting? What about God's coming judgment is difficult for you to accept?

As we see in the story of Noah, God extends grace and mercy before he moves in judgment. Charlie told the story of a mother who lost her legs while protecting her children from a tornado—her act of covering them became a sacrifice born out of love. Charlie compared her sacrifice to Jesus's, encouraging us to be ready, anchored to our "ark," Jesus, who made a way for us out of judgment through his sacrifice. What could it look like to accept God's gift of mercy to you in Jesus? Even if you are already a Christian, what does embracing God's grace look like in your day-to-day life?

Note: To explore God's covenant with Noah in Genesis 9, go to **Go Deeper Section 1** below.

Note: To leave many about the Tower of Dabalin	
Note : To learn more about the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, go to Go Deeper Section 2 below.	
If you are in Christ, you do not have to fear God's judgment. You can trust, as Noah did, that God	
will carry you through this life and spare you from	
his judgment of evil. In what areas of your life do you need to remember God's mercy? What	
could trusting him look like this week?	
Note: Because Genesis is long and packed with	
significant events, people, and themes, our discussion will not cover every major concept. In	
Go Deeper Section 1 and 2 below, you can	
study more in-depth several topics related to	
Noah and his story.	
LAST WORD	
The story of Noah is a story of righteousness— God's righteousness being enacted on an	
unrighteous world. Yet he found one man who	
would do what he commanded, living out his faith through obedience. Noah wasn't perfect,	
but he trusted God's plan to save his family. We	
don't always understand God's plan for us. He can take our lives down mysterious, confusing	
paths. But his character remains the same—good,	
faithful, and righteous. He's worth trusting every step of the way.	
step of the way.	

GO DEEPER

This section has two po	otential functions:
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- 1. It can supplement your small group discussion with topics your group may be interested in. We've highlighted where each of the following segments could fit in the Discuss section of the study guide. As the leader, it would be good to familiarize yourself with this section just in case your conversation turns to one of these topics.
- 2. These sections can also function as short devotionals to carry you through the week until your next group meeting. Consider using these sections to deepen your group's study of the book of Genesis.

1. God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:1–17)

After the flood persisted for 150 days, God allowed the waters to recede and Noah to return to dry land. Read Genesis 8:15–9:17.

The new world into which Noah and his family stepped became home to a renewed humanity who enjoyed a renewed relationship with God. After every animal and living creature disembarked, Noah built an altar to God and sacrificed to him some of the precious animals and birds who had endured the flood on the ark.

In response to Noah's thanksgiving offering, God did three things. First, he made a promise in 8:21–22: never again would he destroy the earth by flood, nor would he strike down every living thing as he had in the flood. Since then, for many thousands of years, he has kept his promise. How does remembering God's continued faithfulness regarding his promise to Noah influence your trust in his character?

Second, God blessed Noah and gave him	
authority over the animals and earth in 9:1–11. In	
his declaration, God repeated what he had told	
the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden:	
"be fruitful and multiply." But he changed the	
second half of his original mandate to "subdue	
the earth." God told Noah that the living	
creatures would live in "fear and terror of you"	
and that all creatures could be used as food in	
addition to the green plants. Though God does	
restore his relationship with humanity, Eden has	
not been restored. In what ways have you seen	
someone care for the earth well? What does	
stewarding the earth look like for you?	
stewarding the earth look like for you:	
Finally, God established the rainbow as a symbol	
of his promise never to flood the earth again in	
9:12–17. When storm clouds gathered, Noah and	
his family would have remembered the days of	
the deluge. The rainbow, coming at the end of a	
storm, would remind them that the God who sent	
the rain had once again stopped the storm, not	
destroying the earth. We may not think so	
directly about the possibility of a destructive	
flood, but rainbows still generate awe and	
delight. What do you think of when you see a	
rainbow in the sky? What can you do to	
connect it to the faithful nature of God?	
God's covenant with Noah signaled a new start. If	
Noah and his family would follow God's	
guidance, the renewed earth would flourish.	
Spend some time reflecting on the truth we see	
in God's covenant with Noah: God is faithful, and	
he remains intimately concerned with our lives,	
our flourishing, and the good he can do through	
us.	

2. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1–9)

After the Flood, the human race began to multiply into families, tribes, and nations. Read Genesis 11:1–9.	
Genesis 11:1 tells us, "Now the whole world had one language." Their ability to communicate led	
them to collaborate on a great unifying project.	
Using oven-fired bricks, they constructed a ziggurat, a man-made mountain on the flat plain	
that would reach up to the heavens. But even the	
best efforts of humanity could not make them "gods." Verse 5 describes how "the Lord came	
down to look over the city and the tower." What	
specifically upset God? In what ways was their building like the first sin—wanting to be like	
God?	
Settling on the plain in Shinar, the people were directly disobeying God's command in Genesis	
9:7 for them to spread throughout the earth Their	
tower was not meant to worship God but to glorify themselves (9:4). Why would God have a	
problem with the people's self-centered	
motivation? In what ways does our society	
repeat the same sin?	
In what ways do you see self-glorification at	
play in your heart? What could it look like to	
bring any sin in your heart to God this week?	
Verses 8 and 9 tell us that the abandoned city	
was called Babel, or Babylon. The Hebrew word	
for "babel" sounds like the word for "confused."	
So Babylon was the place where God confused	
the people and demonstrated his rule over humanity. He would have his way no matter how	
they tried to subvert his reign. What habits can	
you begin (or continue) to help you remember	
your humble position before the God of all	
creation?	

Note: Centuries after Babel was left abandoned, the kingdom of Babylon would grow into a world power again consumed with self-glorification. They would become Israel's mortal enemy, a violent oppressor who would one day conquer God's people and remove them from their land. See 2 Kings 24–25, Jeremiah 39, and Daniel 1–2 for more insight.

3. Weekly Reading Plan

Genesis is a long book, and we won't be able to study every verse of it during each of these sessions. This reading plan will help you familiarize yourself with the entirety of the book so that you can dig more deeply into God's Word. Some weeks will have more reading than others, so feel free to complete the daily readings at a pace that makes the most sense to your group.

Session 2 covered the great flood and Noah's rescue. We see God's character expressed through both his judgment and his mercy. And we see human nature remaining much the same —sinful and self-absorbed. But God does not renege on his promises. As coming sessions will show, he chooses one family through whom he will save the world.

<u>Day 1</u>: God Judges a Wicked World (Genesis 6–7) <u>Day 2</u>: God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 8:1–

9:17)

Day 3: Noah and His Sons (Genesis 9:18-29)

Day 4: Family Tree of Noah (Genesis 10)

<u>Day 5</u>: Tower of Babel and Genealogies (Genesis

11)