

# PROTECT

## GENESIS 9:1-15

(Prepare by Gene Thompson using LifeWay's ETB material.)

1. What is your favorite outdoor reality show, for instance "Life Below Zero? (Alone; Survivor; Mountain Men; etc.)
2. How would you feel being completely alone and on your own in the wilderness?
3. What would be the positive aspects of it and what would be the negative aspects of it? (You make your own decisions. Danger of having no one to help me.)

Once they left the ark, Noah and his family were literally the only humans on earth. As they began the process of "rebooting" humanity, God had some specific rules, especially about respecting human life. This lesson is our annual Sanctity of Life study. It just worked out that our study in Genesis fit perfectly.

4. What sins show a reflection of disrespect for human life? (Prejudice based on skin color or ethnicity; child abuse; sexual abuse; spousal abuse; neglect of the elderly; abortions; bullying; etc.)
  5. What would our world look like if all people valued every human life? (We would treat each other the way we would like to be treated. No war: none of the sins we listed above.)
- "You will never meet a person God does not love!"—Amber Vaden.

In today's study, we'll look at God's directions for Noah's family—and we'll consider how His words challenge us to promote and protect the sacred nature of all human life.

### THE BLESSING! Genesis 9:1-4

1. What are some thoughts and fears you might have had as you left the ark? (They may have tended to stay near.)
2. What does God's instructions to Noah remind you of here? (Genesis 1:28)
3. Why would the command to "be fruitful and multiply, populate the earth" be important? (Because they were the only 8 people on the earth! If they didn't have many children, the human race would not survive.)
4. Is this command still important today? (In some ways it is not as important as it was in Noah's day. There are now 7 Billion people in the world, so there is no danger that the human race is going to die out.)
5. But could this still be important for Christians today? (YES, as the more godly children we have, Lord willing the more Christians there will be in our society.)

For example, in Europe, the average birth rate is 1.5 per family—lower than the 2.1 considered the necessary replacement rate. But Muslim immigrants who are coming in have DOUBLE that rate, over 3 per family—so you can see how they are growing their presence in Europe, just by "being fruitful and multiplying."! Now the number of children each family has is of course between them and God, but we need to make sure we consider children to be "a blessing of the Lord" like the Bible says. And the more godly, Christian children in the world, the better!

6. What is the difference in Genesis 9 and Genesis 1 concerning mankind and the animals? (The animals would now be afraid of man. Man has permission to eat meat now.)
7. Why did God prohibit eating meat with the blood in it? (Because the life is in the blood. Blood represents life, and all life is precious to God. It is by the shedding of blood that we are redeemed. Jesus' blood was shed for us on the cross.)

God has called us to be wise stewards of the things He provides. Related to that is a respect for human life. To emphasize the incredible value of all human life, God issued specific instructions in the event of the loss of human life.

## **THE WARNING! Read Genesis 9:5-7**

1. Why does being made in God's image place a different value on human life? ("God made humans in His image." To take a person's life is to usurp God's sovereignty over life and death. Taking a human life is an offense to God: God made us in His image!)

First, God said He would require a penalty for the loss of human life. Second, He noted that whether the guilty party was another person or even an animal, He would hold them responsible. Anyone guilty of murder would be subject to capital punishment. Every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

This punishment is rooted in the ultimate value God conferred to every person during creation.

2. How should believers respond to attacks on the sanctity of human life? (Pray. Stand up for life in a peaceful way no matter what situation we find ourselves in.)

The severe penalty highlights the sanctity of human life. This past year there were 8,612 abortions in Oklahoma and 625,978 across the United States. Is this not murder! The number one cause of death in the world today is abortion: Abortion: 44 million; Cancer, all kinds, a little over 8 million! Since 1973 65 million babies have been aborted in the United States.

Ultimately, God focused on life more than death. He returned to the command to be fruitful and multiply. After God delivered Noah and his family, God made a special promise.

## **THE COVENANT! Read Genesis 9:8-15**

A covenant is basically a contract or agreement between two parties. Ancient covenants usually set down the rules for how a stronger person or group would treat a lesser person or group. In the Bible, God makes covenants with His people as a promise of His blessings and protection. Most covenants in the Bible are unilateral covenants like the one here.

1. Who does God say He will make this covenant within verses 9-10? (Noah, his descendants, and every living creature.)
2. What does God promise in this covenant? (Verse 11.)
3. Did He promise there would never again be ANY kind of flood? (No, of course not. There are local floods all around the world.)

However, 2 Peter 3:3-7 tells us that the earth will be destroyed by fire in the end times.

4. How does God's promise to preserve life impact the way humans should treat each other and respect all human life? (If God values life we should also.)

God announced that He was now establishing the covenant that He promised before the flood—Gen. 6:18. This covenant included Noah and his family, along with "your descendants after you." It also would bless "every living creature" on earth.

5. What was the sign God established as visible evidence of His promise? (The rainbow.)

Nothing is required of anyone but God in this covenant. Accordingly, the sign is a symbol of God's ongoing mercy and grace. Whenever storm clouds come, the rainbow is a reminder that God is faithful to His covenant and that He values all human life.

6. Where do you see rainbows in our culture? (It has become a symbol for the homosexual lifestyle.)
7. How does that differ from God's design for the rainbow in these verses? (They have taken what God created to be good and a blessing when we see it, to be something representing a sinful and evil lifestyle.)

## **CHALLENGE!**

1. What should valuing all human life look like in Ardmore? (Treating others the way we want to be treated regardless of who they are or their status in life.)
2. Who are some people who are devalued in our community?

3. How can we minister to them?
4. In your day-to-day activities, what are some ways you can reflect the value God places on people?
5. Where are your values and priorities different from God's?
6. What needs to change?