

LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

TEXT: Genesis 8:20–9:28

MAIN IDEA: God provides us with peace and stability so that we can accomplish our mission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Want to love your neighbors this season? Sure you do! Families in need are having a very tough time right now, so **we're collecting food**, in partnership with New Hope Community Ministries and Center for Food Action. Collections will be accepted at both campuses from November 30 to December 14. Check the links on the Digital Bulletin for lists of acceptable food items.
- Have you heard of **City Relief**? They serve thousands of New Yorkers who are experiencing homelessness and hunger through hot meals, life-stabilizing services, and compassionate community. Your group can show the love of Jesus by linking up with them to serve meals at one of their mobile relief outposts. For more info, visit cityrelief.org.
- 'Tis the season ... to get on up to Ringwood for the **Christmas Kickoff, on Saturday, December 6, 9–11:30 am**. We're going to deck the halls, and have food, and do kids stuff, and do outreach. What's not to like?? RSVP on the Digital Bulletin!
- **Winter Sessions** is right around the corner! The topic for this year is **How We Got the Bible**. Come on out as Pastor Doug guides us through the story of how the books of the Bible were written, chosen, preserved, and translated throughout the centuries to the present day. We will kick off on Monday, December 1, at 7 pm at the Totowa campus, and will go for six weeks, with a break for the week of Christmas.
- "A song, a song, high above the trees! It's **Christmas carolers from Emergence!!**" We'll be hitting the streets with a joyful noise beginning December 7. Go ahead and schedule an outing with your Community Group, or you can come on out to either campus on December 14 (12 pm in Ringwood, 1:15 in Totowa). Leaders, don't forget to grab your bags with your stocking invites this week on either Thursday or Sunday.
- Guess whaaaaat ... Christmas at Emergence is right around the corner! Bring all your family and friends for an incredible time of worship and celebration of Jesus' birth. Here are the times for our **Christmas Eve Eve services**:

Totowa: 2:30 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm; Ringwood: 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm

Kids programs will be available at all services except the 2:30.

Spanish translation will be available at the 7:00 service in Totowa.

- We hope you had a great Community Group season! Enjoy your week, serve your community, invite some folks to Christmas Eve Eve, and check out Winter Sessions. We will be back for our winter season the week of January 18.

GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week's Community Extras Video.
 - **Optional Icebreaker:** Who is one person God is putting on your heart to invite to Christmas Eve Eve, and what next steps can you take towards reaching out to them?
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For this year's Christmas series, we are exploring the major covenants of the Old Testament:

- The Noahic Covenant
- The Abrahamic
- The Sinai Covenant
- The David Covenant
- The New Covenant

💡 At the beginning of the sermon, Ryan began with a challenge to set apart our Tuesdays leading up to Christmas Eve Eve for prayer and fasting. We even invite you to meet up with everyone on Tuesdays at 7 am at the church to pray with one another, especially for the people we plan on inviting out. What encourages or intimidates you about this?

💡 The story of Genesis 1–11 is that sin breaks God's good world, and we can't fix this. Where do you see this truth manifested in the world today?

💡 The flood narrative is often treated as a children's story, even though it's deeply sobering. How does understanding the flood as an act of both divine judgment and mercy shape the way you read it?

Never Again


Read Genesis 8:20–22.

💡 Read what Genesis 6:5 says about what God observed about the world before he sent the flood, and compare it with what God says here in 8:21: "The intention of man's heart is evil from his youth." What has changed about mankind, and what does this tell us about the covenant God is about to establish with all creation?


💡 Read 2 Peter 3:5–7 and 10. How does this jive with God's promise to never again destroy the earth in verses 21–22 (and also 9:11)?


Getting Our Part Right

Read Genesis 9:1–7.

 Every biblical covenant places some kind of obligation on those who participate in it. What are our obligations under the Noahic covenant?


☺ God gave Noah the same mission he gave to humanity at our creation (1:28): “Be fruitful and multiply”—and he says it twice (9:1, 7)! In what ways are children and family a part of God’s blessing and mission, even for those who do not have children?


 What does this passage teach us about the value of human life?

☺  How does verse 6 inform our thinking about the death penalty?

With All Living Flesh


Read Genesis 9:8–17.

☺  God establishes this covenant, not just with mankind, but with all creation. Why do you think that is, and how can we be imitators of God in how we treat the non-human creation?

 Each covenant between God and man has a sign (except the Davidic covenant—we don’t know what the sign for that one was!). What is the significance of the bow hung in the sky as the sign of the Noahic covenant?

Don’t Be a Ham

Read Genesis 9:18–28.

☺  What was Ham’s error, and what do we learn from this about how to deal with other people’s sin?

☺ This passage reminds us that even the best men and women still struggle with humiliating sin. In the Community Extras, Ryan explained that people sometimes allow their fallenness to prevent them from sharing the gospel. Has this ever been true for you? If so, please explain.

PRAYER TIME

Praise God for a great fall Community Season.

Pray for God to help you enjoy his blessings of peace and security and to enable you to use that to accomplish his mission for your life.

Pray for the person (or people!) you plan on inviting out for Christmas Eve Eve.