

Hebrews 11:7 --> Noah

Leader Guide: Hebrews 11:7 & the Story of Noah

“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Hebrews 11:7)

Big Idea:

Noah's life shows us that true faith obeys God even when His promises seem invisible or improbable. His faith in God's word led to salvation—not just for his family, but as a picture of the salvation to come in Christ, the greater ark of refuge.

Key Old Testament Reference:

- **Genesis 6:5–22** – God's judgment and Noah's obedience in building the ark
- **Genesis 7–9** – The flood, God's covenant, and Noah's deliverance

Discussion Questions with Leader Notes & Suggested Answers

1 **Read Genesis 6:9–22. What stands out to you about Noah's faith in this passage?** *Leader Notes:*

- Encourage the group to think about the challenge of trusting God when judgment had not yet come and the world mocked him.
- Emphasize long-term obedience.

Suggested Answer: Noah obeyed God's command to build the ark despite never having seen a flood. His faith was persistent, countercultural, and based entirely on God's word.

2 According to Hebrews 11:7, Noah was warned about things “not yet seen.” How is this similar to the faith we’re called to today?

Leader Notes:

- Connect this to trusting in Christ’s return, eternal life, or unseen spiritual realities.
- Faith often involves waiting and trusting despite what we see.

Suggested Answer: Like Noah, we trust God about things we haven’t yet seen—Christ’s return, final judgment, eternal reward. Faith involves acting on God’s promises before they are visible.

3 Hebrews says Noah acted in “reverent fear.” What does this kind of fear mean, and how is it different from being afraid of God?

Leader Notes:

- Clarify that reverent fear is awe-filled respect, not terror.
- It leads to trust and obedience, not hiding from God.

Suggested Answer: Reverent fear is a holy respect for God’s greatness and authority. It leads us to obey Him because we know He is both just and merciful.

4 Noah’s obedience led to the “saving of his household.” How does this point us to the gospel and Christ?

Leader Notes:

- Emphasize that the ark is a type or foreshadowing of Christ.
- Salvation comes through trust in God’s provision.

Suggested Answer: The ark was God’s means of salvation from judgment—just like Christ. Jesus is the greater ark who shelters us from the wrath to come and brings us safely through judgment into new life.

5 Hebrews says Noah “condemned the world” through his faith. What does that mean?*Leader Notes:*

- Not that Noah judged people himself, but his obedience exposed their unbelief.

- Faith often stands in contrast to the world.

Suggested Answer: Noah's faith made the unbelief of others clear. By trusting God, he showed the world what they refused to see—that judgment was real and salvation was available.

6 Noah became “an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” How is this a key gospel truth?

Leader Notes:

- This is a major moment—righteousness by faith before the law.
- It connects directly to justification by faith in Christ.

Suggested Answer: Noah wasn't saved by his works but by faith, just like Abraham later. This points to the gospel: we are counted righteous by trusting in Christ, not by what we do.

7 What are some “arks” people today try to build for themselves—false sources of salvation or security?

Leader Notes:

- Open up conversation about self-reliance, religion, money, success, etc.
- Lead back to Christ as our only true refuge.

Suggested Answer: People try to find security in careers, morality, achievements, or relationships. But only Christ can truly save and carry us through judgment.

8 What does Noah's long obedience teach us about walking by faith over time?

Leader Notes:

- Highlight that Noah obeyed for decades before the rain ever came.
- Obedience is often slow, steady, and unpopular.

Suggested Answer: Faith isn't flashy—it's persevering over time, even when no results are visible. Like Noah, we're called to trust and obey God day by day, knowing His promises will be fulfilled.

† Christ-Centered Cross-References:

- **1 Peter 3:20–21** – The ark as a type of salvation, pointing to baptism into Christ
- **Matthew 24:37–39** – Jesus compares His return to the days of Noah
- **Romans 4:3–5** – Righteousness by faith, not by works
- **Hebrews 12:28–29** – Worshiping God with reverent fear and awe