

ENTER THE ARK

MAIN POINT.

Even when we sin, God provides a way for us to be **forgiven**.



CHRIST CONNECTION

The story of Noah points to an even greater rescue. As with Noah and the flood, a final judgment for sin is coming when God will condemn unrepentant sinners to eternal death and hell, but all who repent and believe in Jesus will be saved (**Rom. 10:13**).



This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to read all of the content on the timeline as you prepare to teach.

Genesis 6**Genesis 9****GOD MUST JUDGE SIN****GENESIS 6:5-8,11-13**

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. . . . 11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

GOD SAVES THOSE WHO FEAR AND OBEY HIM**GENESIS 6:17-7:1**

17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. 21 Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." 22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. 1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.

BEFORE YOU TEACH

MAIN POINT.

Leaders: Thank you for preparing to teach God's Word. As you do, may He teach you new and wonderful truths (Ps. 119:18).

Even when we sin, God provides a way for us to be **forgiven**.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

GOD MUST JUDGE SIN

GENESIS 6:7-8

"The simple brevity of [verse] 8 is extremely telling after the sweeping terms of [verse] 7. Together the two verses show God's characteristic way with evil: to meet it not with half-measures but with the simultaneous extremes of judgment and salvation."¹²

GENESIS 6:17-18

"It is clear from this that the Flood was a moral judgment. The arrangement that God made with Noah includes the main features of a unilateral covenant. The Lord announced what he was going to do for and through Noah and made stipulations for Noah to follow. The announcement of God was sure; but Noah's participation in the plan required faith, faith demonstrated by obedience. After the Flood, Noah offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God, who had fulfilled his promise of salvation in the face of judgment."¹³

GOD SAVES THOSE WHO FEAR AND OBEY HIM

GENESIS 7:1

"Noah's ark and the basket in which Moses was placed as an infant (Ex. 2:3) are identified by the same term in Hebrew. This suggests that there are important parallels between the stories of Noah and baby Moses: (1) Both arks were made of wood covered by bitumen; (2) both Noah and Moses were delivered from certain death by floating in the water; (3) because Noah and Moses were saved, both preserved an entire people; (4) as adults, both received God's covenant. Moses clearly intended to tell his audience that like Noah, he—and they—were beginning a new epoch in God's redemptive history."¹⁴



CONTEXT

After Adam and Eve's fall in the garden, they began to experience sin's effect on humanity. Their first child, Cain, murdered his brother, Abel, because of intense jealousy. From there, it's as if **humanity only spiraled downward**. As population increased, so did the propensity to sin. During Noah's lifetime, Scripture explains that all people were consumed with choosing evil, causing the Lord to grieve over His creation (Gen. 6:6). But one man found favor with God: Noah. In the original language, Noah's name sounds like, "bring us relief." We'll see many similarities between Noah and the author of Genesis: Moses. We'll also see the Lord "uncreate" in a sense by washing away all of humankind and returning one single family to begin a new society on earth. **God showed mercy in allowing mankind to start over because He found one man who was righteous.**

THEOLOGY CONNECTION



salvation

Salvation involves the **redemption of the whole man** and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who **by His own blood** obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

LEADER'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR MERCY, WHICH
TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT. THANK YOU FOR
SAVING ALL WHO REPENT.



KICK STARTER

DID YOU KNOW?

In today's terms, the length of the ark is almost equal to one and a half football fields. It's also roughly four stories high!¹⁵

These optional activities are designed to help your students interact. You'll find a Discussion Activity and a Cultural Connection, which touches on a relevant topic in today's teen culture. Each group is different, so adapt these activities to fit your group's needs. The goal is for students to connect more to the lesson as they connect to the topic and to one another.

1

STARTING OVER

SUPPLIES LIST: NONE

Ask the following questions, allowing time for students to share responses:

- **HAVE YOU EVER HAD A DAY WHERE YOU JUST NEEDED A DO OVER? WHAT WAS IT LIKE?**
- **HAVE YOU EVER MESSED SOMETHING UP AND WISHED YOU COULD START OVER AND GET IT RIGHT? EXPLAIN.**
- **DO YOU THINK OUR SOCIETY NEEDS THE CHANCE TO START OVER? WHY OR IN WHAT WAYS?**

Getting the chance to start over when you mess up, have a bad day, or hurt someone you love is probably something we've all needed. And there are many days when society as a whole could benefit from a new beginning. Noah's corrupt culture certainly got the chance to begin again, but only those who followed God were given the opportunity.

2

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Many times, the story of Noah is spun as a kid's story. But truly, it's one of the darkest stories in the entire Bible. All of humanity was so depraved, so dark, so sinful and evil, that God chose that moment in history to wipe them out. This isn't the story of a happy family hanging out on a boat with all the animals in the middle of the sea. It's a story of judgment. It's a story about the horrors of sin. It's the story of walking in obedience when no one else is walking with you. Can you imagine the day when Noah stepped off the ark, fully realizing every other human had perished? Here's the reality: the people around you need the gospel. While this judgment was for those living in Noah's time, another one is coming. The world needs your obedience and your voice. Your family and your friends need salvation offered in Christ. Only through Jesus do we escape God's final judgment.

DISCUSSION

MAIN POINT.

GOD MUST JUDGE SIN

READ GENESIS 6:5-8,11-13

Even when we sin, God provides a way for us to be **forgiven**.



WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL ABOUT GOD'S VIEW OF SIN? HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT YOUR VIEW OF SIN?

Sin stands in direct opposition to God's nature of being good, holy, and kind. **Because God is holy, He must oppose and judge sin. But He has never done so without offering humans a way to be saved from their sin.** Ever. Reading about God's judgment through the flood account should awaken our hearts to look at sin in the same way that God does. We're loved despite our sin, but God calls us out of it.

WHAT DOES IT SHOW YOU ABOUT GOD'S HEART THAT HE GRIEVED OVER MAKING HUMAN BEINGS?

God loves us so completely that He feels grief when we don't love Him in return. He could be more concerned with any part of His creation, but God is most concerned with us—we matter most to Him. **Our Creator cares about our thoughts and actions, not because He longs to judge us but because He deeply loves us.** God grieves over our choice to sin because it only leads to our ruin, and He longs for us to live in freedom.

WHAT'S MORE APPALLING: THE DEPTH OF HUMANITY'S SIN OR THE SEVERITY OF GOD'S JUDGMENT? EXPLAIN.

Many people read this account and are more upset about God's judgment than humanity's depravity. They feel God is quick to punish. But it's important to realize that roughly one thousand years had passed since Adam and Eve were removed from Eden—one thousand years of opportunities to walk with God, and humans chose to walk in the opposite direction, away from the Creator. God commanded Noah to build an ark, and then roughly 120 more years passed. In that space of time, Noah continued to speak truth and called people to repent! **God isn't quick to punish us. In fact, He is kind, patient, and loving toward us.** Even in judgment, God extended mercy through a wooden ark. And even in our sin, He sent Christ to be bruised and battered on a cross to shoulder our punishment. **We must reconcile with the truth that God is both just and merciful, and His justice never diminishes His mercy.**

GOD SAVES THOSE WHO FEAR AND OBEY HIM

READ GENESIS 6:17–7:1

WHAT IS A COVENANT? WHAT DOES IT REVEAL ABOUT GOD THAT HE IS WILLING TO MAKE A COVENANT WITH SINFUL HUMAN BEINGS?

People in the Ancient Middle East understood the significance of a covenant, or a promise that was either conditional or unconditional. The promise God made to Noah was unconditional. The promise to send a Savior for the world was unconditional as well. God fulfilled His part of the covenant and ours when He sent Christ to die for our sin. **The fact that God makes promises to us when we can't fulfill our part shows His unending love and faithfulness to us.**

WHERE IN THIS PASSAGE DO YOU SEE NOAH'S OBEDIENCE? DO YOU THINK IT WAS EASY? EXPLAIN.

Genesis 6:22 tells us that Noah did whatever the Lord commanded. But think about it: Noah was the only one following God. Noah was the only one walking in righteousness, and surely he stood out among everyone else. **Noah obeyed anyway, regardless of what his culture was like, and he was tremendously blessed.** It led not only to his own salvation but also to the salvation of his entire family!



HOW DID JESUS DO WHAT NOAH COULDN'T?

Noah was obedient, and it led to the saving of his family. But it wouldn't take long before they would all begin making sinful choices again. Noah's righteousness wasn't enough to result in permanent salvation from sin. **Jesus was "the better Noah" in that He accomplished what Noah couldn't, what the law couldn't—salvation from sin and eternal life in heaven.**

WRAP-UP

HOW CAN YOU WALK IN OBEDIENCE THIS WEEK, EVEN IF IT FEELS LIKE EVERYONE AROUND YOU IS CHOOSING ANOTHER WAY?

God called Noah to do some drastic stuff! Noah boldly obeyed. God likely won't ask you to build a massive boat for you and your family (and let's not mention all the animals). But He is calling you to *something*. He is calling you to be holy and to walk away from culture's idols (2 Cor. 6:17). He's calling you to share the gospel with people who need Christ's love. He's asking you to live as Jesus did in a world that's way more concerned with self. When you rely on the Holy Spirit to help you do these things, you're walking in obedience just like Noah. **Sometimes it may look radical to other people. But obeying the Lord will always bring tremendous blessing.** You may not always see those blessings here and now, but you'll know them in heaven. Obedience is always worth it.