

# 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 When the LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time, 6 the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved. 7 Then the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them." 8 Noah, however, found favor with the LORD. . . . 11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. 13 Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth."

### GOD SAVES THOSE WHO FEAR AND OBEY HIM

#### GENESIS 6:17–7:1

17 "Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. 19 You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 Two of everything—from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds—will come to you so that you can keep them alive. 21 Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them." 22 And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him. 1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone 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."<sup>12</sup>

#### 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."<sup>13</sup>

### 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."<sup>14</sup>



## 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!<sup>15</sup>

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

## FRESH START

### **SUPPLIES LIST: INFLATED BEACH BALLS**

Find an open space and place students into two or more teams, depending on the size of your group. Give each team a beach ball. Explain that they must reach fifty touches without dropping the ball. Every time they drop it, they must start over at one—and they only have five minutes to reach their goal.

Sometimes, we don't want to start over because we're afraid of what we'll lose. But other times, a fresh start is exactly what we want. We might want to erase something unkind we said, a bad day, or a mistake. While we don't have the power to start over like that, God does. And today, we'll see how He gave Noah a fresh start and how He gives us one too.

# 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.

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

## GOD MUST JUDGE SIN

READ GENESIS 6:5-8,11-13



### 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 WORSE: THE DEPTHS OF THE PEOPLE'S SIN OR THE HARSHNESS OF GOD'S PUNISHMENT? 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.



# LET US MAKE A NAME

## MAIN POINT.

God will always accomplish His will for **His glory**.



## CHRIST CONNECTION

God confused the language of humanity to scatter the people over the face of the earth. But through the gospel of Jesus Christ, God saves people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to form one people united in Christ forever (**Rev. 7:9-10**).

