

The Waiting Game Part 1 - Lessons from Noah

Message to Conversation Guide

Genesis 8:6-19

6 After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark 7 and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. 9 But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. 10 **He waited seven more days** and again sent out the dove from the ark. 11 When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. 12 **He waited seven more days** and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

13 **By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth.** Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. 14 **By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.**

15 **Then God said to Noah, 16 "Come out of the ark,** you and your wife and your sons and their wives. 17 Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

18 So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. 19 All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another. NIV

Discussion Questions

1. What areas of life frustrate you the most when you have to wait (lines at grocery store, traffic lights, waiting at Doctor's office etc.)?
2. Read the above and note the number of times that it said that Noah waited.
3. Use the verses below to calculate the basic total time that Noah was in the ark.

Genesis 7:11

11 In **the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month**—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. NIV

Genesis 8:13-16

13 By the first day of the **first month of Noah's six hundred and first year**, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. 14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. 15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. NIV

4. Discuss the idea that the Ark was designed to float and not steered. What is noteworthy and significant that the ark did not have a rudder or any steering mechanism.

Gen 6:14-16

14 "Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. 15 Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. 16 Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper. NLT

5. Discuss the verses below as they point to the fact that although Noah was not in control God was. Why is significant that God used the wind as a process to recede the waters. How can the fact that God used a process be encouraging to us as we wait?

Gen 8:1

1 **But God remembered Noah** and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, **and he sent a wind over the earth**, and the waters receded. NIV

Phil 1:6

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will **carry it on** to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. NIV

6. What is the first thing Noah did when he left the Ark? Why is celebration a key part of what we need to do when a dream is finally realized?

Gen 8:20

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, **he sacrificed** burnt offerings on it. NIV

Concluding Thought: *Waiting is Never Waisted Time when You Await the Destiny God has for you!*

Gen 8:3-5

3 So the floodwaters gradually receded from the earth. After 150 days, 4 exactly five months from the time the flood began, the boat came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5 Two and a half months later, as the waters continued to go down, other mountain peaks became visible. NLT

Gen 8:3-4

3 The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, 4 and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. NIV