



Parkway Fellowship

FAMILY GAME NIGHT • MONOPOLY • GENESIS 6:9-22 • 5/3/2020

MAIN POINT

Persistent sin brings inevitable judgment, but God offers mercy and hope to those who build their lives as He commands.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

In the original version of Monopoly, there is a Chance card that reads: "Make general repairs on all your property—For each house pay \$25—For each hotel \$100." These days, \$25 worth of repairs on your property wouldn't even replace all the burned out lightbulbs. Let's get real!

If you were to create your own "Chance" cards for the game of Monopoly that would reflect things that could happen (or have happened) in life today, what might you include (i.e. global pandemic—get \$1200 stimulus check; hurricane produces devastating flooding—for each house \$5,000)?

The truth is, there's a strong chance that as you build your life, sometimes things happen to wreck your efforts, slow you down, or change your course. What is your strongest memory of the Hurricane Harvey flood?

We've had a particularly difficult few years with the flooding of Hurricane Harvey and now this pandemic just a few short years later. We haven't finished literally rebuilding from Harvey, and now we'll have a different kind of rebuilding to do. Today we're going to take a look at the Great Flood from Noah's day, which is kind of like an awful mixture of the flood of 2017 and quarantine of 2020. Noah and his family were stuck in the ark for a year, and the whole earth was destroyed.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 6:9-10.

In your own words, what does it mean that Noah was righteous? Blameless among the people of his time? Walked faithfully with God?

In a world that had turned its back on God, Noah's commitment to God stood out. Noah's desire to follow God did not mean he was perfect. Noah sinned like all people, but he refused to involve himself in the horrible sin of those around him.

What excuses do people use to avoid doing what God has commanded them to do? Are any of these excuses valid before God? Why?

Surrounded by people willingly trapped in sin, Noah followed God's leadership and sought to live for Him. This choice requires a close, personal walk with God. Our relationship with Him involves spending time with Him, listening to Him, learning about His love and perspective, following His leadership, and depending on Him.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 6:11-13.

Is it possible to build your life on godly character and also live like everyone else in the world? Why not?

What do these verses teach us about the seriousness of sin? How would your life look different if you took your sin as seriously as God does?

How do you see evidence of both God's judgment and His mercy in these verses?

God exhibits His grace by providing many opportunities to repent before He punishes, but punishment does come. God does not tolerate rebellion and disobedience forever (see 2 Pet. 3:8-9). God's grace and call to repentance do not mean God will not punish sin.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 6:14-22.

Which of God's instructions to Noah were clearest and most detailed? Were some instructions less clear?

The ark needed a roof to prevent the torrential rain from filling and sinking it. A door in the side allowed people and animals to enter and provisions to be loaded. Three decks provided ample

room for humans, animals, and supplies. The ark's dimensions indicate a vessel that would have been seaworthy and stable even in the rough waters of the raging flood.

Does God give us instructions as clearly stated as the ones He gave to Noah? Explain your thoughts.

What did God promise Noah?

How did Noah respond to God's instructions (v. 22)? Why do you think Noah did everything exactly right? Is that something we should strive for in relationship to God today? Explain.

God not only planned to save Noah and his family; He promised to establish His covenant with Noah. Covenant refers to a binding agreement linking two parties together. Noah already lived in a close, personal relationship with God, and their relationship formed the basis of the covenant. Through establishing His covenant with Noah, God pledged to maintain the relationship. Since Noah would be the ancestor of all humanity, however, the covenant would bless people far beyond Noah's time.

Read Genesis 8:13-22. What was the outcome of the flood? What else is revealed about Noah's character through the flood story?

Read Genesis 9:11-16. What did God promise Noah and his descendants? What are the implications of this covenant for us today?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Where are you tempted to obey God only halfway or even 75%? Why is 100% faithfulness so difficult? What changes would take place in your life this week if you were to obey God 100%?

Each of us has a unique opportunity to reopen our lives differently once this COVID-19 thing is over. Read Galatians 5:19-23. How do these verses speak to you specifically about your life going forward?

PRAYER

Thank God for the reminder that just as He worked through Noah in a fallen world, He can use us if we follow Him in obedience. Thank God for His grace and mercy and His desire to walk with

His children. Ask Him to show you how to live righteously, blameless among the people of your time, and walk faithfully with Him.

COMMENTARY

| GENEESIS 6:9-22.

6:9-10. In a world of increasing sin, God found a person named Noah whose commitment to Him stood out. Noah was righteous, a description given to no other person up to this point in the Bible. Noah and his wife had three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The list of Noah's sons provides a link between the end of the list of Seth's descendants (Gen. 5:32) and the Table of Nations (10:1). After the flood, humanity had another opportunity to begin again through Noah's sons. Before the flood ever arrived, God in His mercy had determined to provide this opportunity.

6:11-13. God's world had become the complete opposite of what He created and intended. God intended the earth to be filled with people and animals (Gen. 1:24,28). Instead, corruption and violence filled the earth. God told Noah of His plans to destroy the earth and its inhabitants. God also explained to Noah why the earth was about to face destruction. Sin had corrupted the world, perverting humanity and causing nature to suffer. The world no longer existed as God intended, so God would destroy the earth and its inhabitants and undo His creation. Since humanity insisted on corrupting itself through disobedience to Him, God would make the corruption complete by destroying the earth and its living creatures.

6:14-16. God had decided to destroy the world due to its sin. He instructed Noah to construct an ark, indicating He intended to deliver Noah and provide a new beginning for the world. Unlike most ships through the ages, the ark had no curved bow or rudder. God did not intend Noah to sail the vessel. He intended the boat only to be a container in which Noah, his family, and animals could survive the flood.

6:17-22. God stated His intention to use a flood to destroy the earth, which provided the rationale for Noah's building the ark. The flood constituted a unique event in world history. Waters would flood the earth, destroying all human and animal life, but only this one time (see Gen. 8:21). The flood in Noah's time constituted a horrible judgment that will never be repeated. God told Noah that he and his family would escape the destruction of the flood. God determined to preserve Noah and his family as a remnant through which He would repopulate the earth. Although Noah

was a righteous individual, he had sinned and would continue to sin (see Gen. 9:20-21). God's salvation of Noah and his family demonstrated His grace.

God not only planned to save Noah and his family, He also promised to establish His covenant with Noah. The word (as well as the concept) "covenant" occurs here for the first time in the Bible. "Covenant" refers to a binding agreement linking two parties together. In God's covenant with Noah, God constituted the stronger party; but He imposed obligations only on Himself. Noah already lived in a close, personal relationship with God, and their relationship formed the basis of the covenant. Through establishing His covenant with Noah, God pledged to maintain the relationship.

To preserve each species and repopulate the earth after the flood, God instructed Noah to take on the ark a male and female of each bird and each land animal. God also commanded Noah to gather the necessary food to sustain himself, his family, and the animals while on the ark (Gen. 6:19-21).