

GENESIS: The Book of Beginnings - Week 6

Passage: Genesis 6:5–22 (with context from Genesis 5–9)

Related texts: Romans 5:12; Romans 8:20–21; Ephesians 6; 1 Corinthians 15:55–57

Big Idea: In a world marked by deep sin, God remains holy and just, yet He provides salvation by grace through faith, calling His people to walk with Him and obey.

Background and Setting

- **Where we are in Genesis:**
 - Genesis 1–2: God creates; it is *very good*.
 - Genesis 3: sin enters; the world is now broken.
 - Genesis 5: genealogy from Adam to Noah (a long span of time).
- **Time jump:** The text presents a progression of generations leading to Noah, showing the spread and depth of human sin.
 - What stands out to you about how quickly sin intensifies after Genesis 3?

Theme 1: Human Sinfulness (Genesis 6:5, 11–12)

Key Observations from the Text

- God “saw” the extent of human wickedness. (v.5)
- Sin is described as pervasive and continuous: *heart, thoughts, inclinations*. (v.5)
- The corruption shows up in society: *violence fills the earth*. (v.11)

Core Truths

- Sin is not merely external behavior, it flows from the heart.
- Sin doesn’t stay private; it spreads outward into relationships, communities, and cultures.

Discussion Questions

1. In v.5, what words emphasize the depth and reach of sin?

2. Why is it important to connect inner corruption (heart) with outward corruption (violence)?
3. What are common ways people try to excuse or minimize sin today?

Personal Application

- Pray Psalm 139:23–24 honestly: “Search me... test me... see if there is any offensive way in me.”
- Identify one area where you’re tempted to compare yourself to others instead of examining your own heart.

Theme 2: God’s Judgment (Genesis 6:6–7, 13)

Key Observations from the Text

- God is “grieved” and His heart is filled with pain. (v.6)
- God declares a real judgment on real evil. (v.7, 13)

Core Truths

- God’s judgment is not random or cruel; it is tied to His holiness and justice.
- God is not indifferent to sin—He responds to it.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it teach us about God that He is described as grieving?
2. Why is God’s justice necessary in a world of evil and violence?
3. How do Romans 6:23 and Genesis 6 together help us understand the seriousness of sin?

Personal Application

- Consider: Where have you grown casual about what God calls sin?
- What would repentance look like in practical terms this week?

Theme 3: Noah’s Faithfulness (Genesis 6:8–10, 14, 22)

Key Observations from the Text

- Noah “found favor” (grace) in God’s eyes. (v.8)
- Noah is described as righteous and blameless among his generation. (v.9)
- Noah “walked with God.” (v.9)
- Noah obeyed specifically and completely: “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.” (v.22)

Core Truths

- Faithfulness is not perfection, it is faithful walking and trusting obedience.
- God’s call often involves long obedience when others don’t understand.
- The ark was for **protection**, not **navigation**, God would carry Noah through what Noah couldn’t control.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think it means to “walk with God” in everyday life?
2. Why might obedience have been difficult for Noah (social pressure, time, uncertainty)?
3. What does v.22 teach us about the shape of true faith?

Personal Application

- What is one “next step” of obedience God may be prompting you to take?
 - **Stop** (a habit, sin, compromise)
 - **Start** (a practice, obedience, discipline)
 - **Stay** (faithful endurance where you are)
 - **Go** (move forward into a clear calling)

Gospel Connection: The Ark as a Foreshadowing

In the story: judgment is real, but so is rescue, God provides a way of salvation, entered by faith.

For us: the ultimate rescue is Jesus, God’s provision for salvation and deliverance from judgment.

Discussion Questions

1. What similarities do you see between “entering the ark by faith” and trusting Christ?
2. How does this story hold together both the holiness and mercy of God?

Summary Takeaways

- **Sin is serious** (deep in the heart and destructive in the world).
- **God is holy and just** (judgment is real and righteous).
- **God provides salvation by grace** (Noah finds favor; rescue is God’s idea).
- **Faith walks with God and obeys** (steady faithfulness in a corrupt world).

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word and for the truth it speaks about our hearts and our world. We confess that sin is deeper than we often admit, and we ask You to search us and reveal what needs to change. Thank You that You are holy and just, and that You never ignore evil or violence. And thank You that in Your mercy You provide salvation, You made a way for Noah, and You have made the ultimate way for us through Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith to walk with You daily, to obey You even when it’s hard or slow, and to take the next step You are calling each of us to take. Keep us humble, teachable, and steadfast. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.