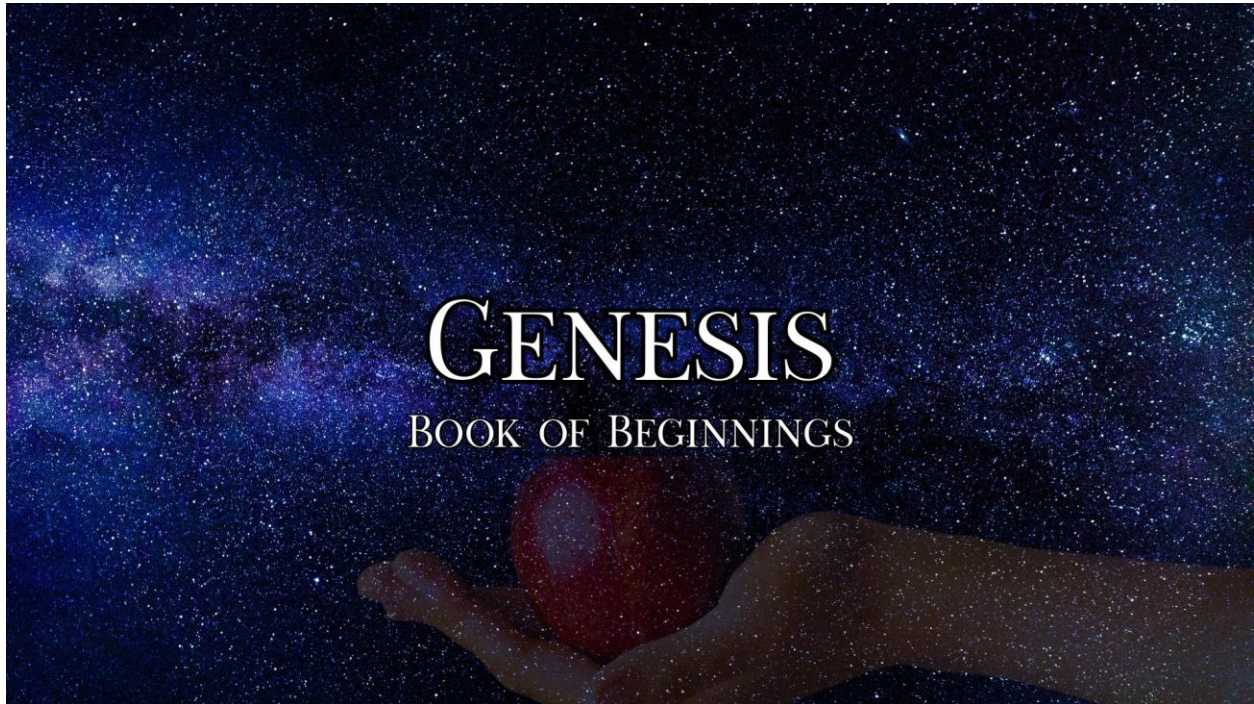


Small Group Guide: Genesis 7 -- The Flood



Overview

This session explores Genesis 7 and the account of Noah's flood. The sermon challenges us to move past simplified, childhood versions of this story and engage honestly with what the flood reveals about God's character -- his holiness, his wrath, his mercy, and his deep desire that none should perish. As the sermon stated plainly: "God's not cute. He's raw, massive power. And as much as he is love, he is wrath. As much as he is mercy, he is judgment."

Key Takeaways

- God's wrath and God's mercy are not opposites -- they operate simultaneously and flow from the same holy character.
- The flood was a global, cataclysmic judgment, not a regional weather event. It reshaped the physical earth itself.
- God demonstrated extraordinary patience before the flood, giving humanity 120 years to repent.
- Noah's ark is a picture of salvation -- God sealed those he was saving inside, protecting them from the judgment falling outside.

- The flood points forward to a final judgment that is still coming, making the gospel urgent.
 - The sealing of the ark parallels the New Testament teaching that believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit.
 - The flood functions as a picture of both baptism and of Christ -- the old dying, and new life rising above the waters.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

1. The message described revisiting things from childhood with adult eyes and seeing them very differently. What is something from your own upbringing -- a story, a belief, or an idea about God -- that looked different when you examined it more closely as an adult?
 2. Before hearing this sermon, how would you have described the story of Noah's ark? What images or details came to mind first?
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Digging Into the Text

3. God gave humanity 120 years before the flood came. What does that extended warning period tell you about God's character? How does that change the way you think about his judgment?
 4. Genesis 7 describes not just rain but the fountains of the great deep breaking open - a cataclysmic tearing apart of the earth itself. What does the scale and severity of the flood communicate about how seriously God takes sin and evil?
 5. The sermon pointed out that God personally shut the door of the ark. What is the significance of that detail? What does it mean that God is the one who sealed Noah and his family inside?
 6. The sermon connects the flood to 2 Peter 3, where Peter uses the flood as a reference point for the final judgment still to come. How does reading the flood as a preview of future judgment change how you engage with it?
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Reflecting on God's Character

7. The pastor said: "At some point, love becomes wrath." He used the analogy of a parent fiercely protecting their children. Does that analogy help you understand God's wrath differently? Where does it connect for you, and where does it feel difficult?
 8. God's desire, as stated in 2 Peter 3, is that none should perish. If that is true, what does it say about the condition of the people who perished in the flood? How do you hold together God's desire for all to be saved with the reality that judgment fell?
 9. The sermon describes the flood as an "undoing" of creation -- a reversal of Genesis 1 -- followed by a new beginning through Noah. How does that pattern of judgment leading to restoration show up in the broader story of Scripture?
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Personal Application

10. The message challenged the group not to soften or avoid the difficult parts of Scripture. Are there passages or truths about God that you tend to avoid or minimize? What makes those hard to sit with?
 11. The sermon ended with a strong call to share the gospel with urgency, connecting the patience of God now with the reality that a final judgment is coming. How does the account of the flood affect your sense of urgency about sharing your faith?
 12. "We need to look at people not as enemies, but as someone Christ died for." How does that perspective shape the way you engage with people who seem far from God or who actively oppose the faith?
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Practical Applications

- **Examine your image of God.** Take time this week to reflect honestly on how you picture God. Ask yourself whether that picture is shaped more by Scripture or by cultural assumptions. Read Isaiah 6:1-5 and Revelation 1:12-17 as starting points for encountering a more complete picture of who God is.
- **Sit with a hard passage.** Choose one section of Scripture this week that you have historically skipped over or found uncomfortable. Read it slowly, ask what it reveals about God, and bring your reflections back to the group next week.

- **Identify someone to pray for by name.** The sermon's closing emphasis was on reaching people with the gospel before the opportunity closes. Write down the name of one person in your life who does not yet know Christ. Commit to praying for them daily this week and look for one natural opportunity to have a spiritual conversation with them.
 - **Reflect on your sealing.** If you are a believer, spend time this week meditating on the truth that you are sealed by the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to you personally that God has shut you in, just as he shut Noah in the ark? Journal your thoughts.
 - **Talk to your kids or someone younger in the faith.** If you have children or disciple younger believers, consider how you can present the full, honest account of the flood to them in an age-appropriate but truthful way -- not hiding the weight of it, but helping them see both God's justice and his mercy clearly.
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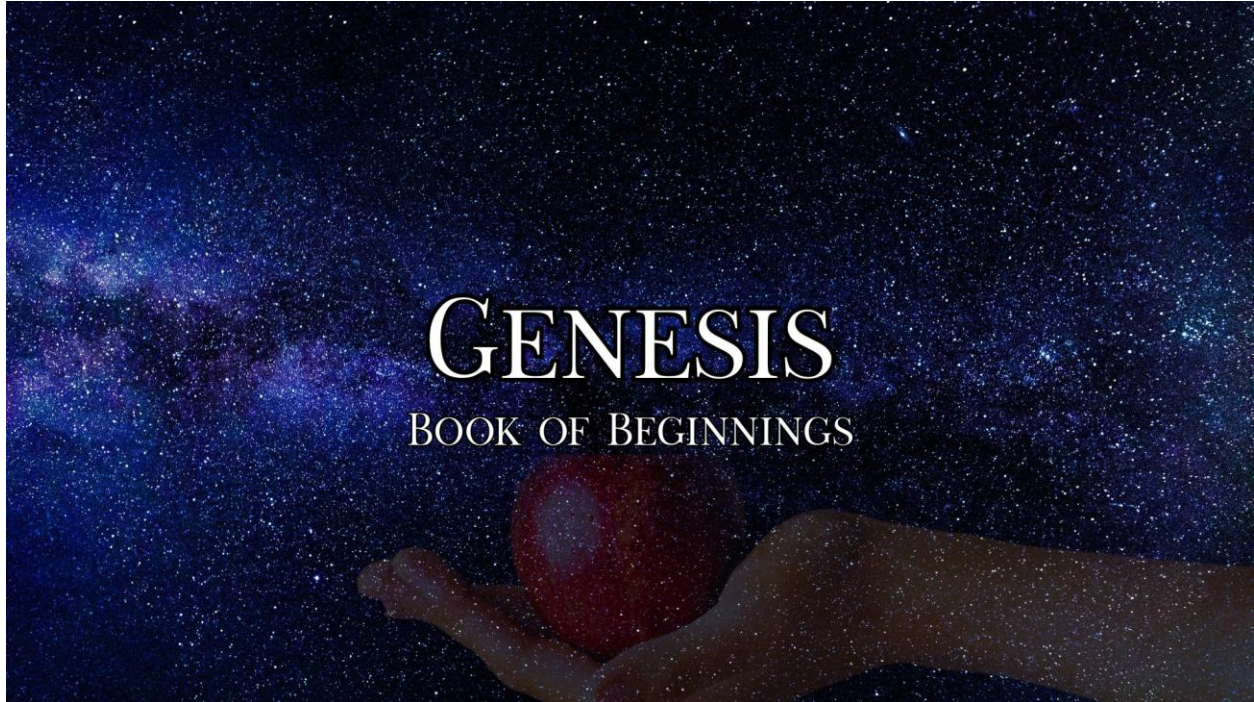
Closing Prayer Focus

As you close your time together, pray along these lines:

- Thank God that his mercy and his justice are both expressions of his perfect character.
- Ask God to soften your heart to the weight of sin and the seriousness of judgment.
- Pray by name for people in your lives who have not yet responded to the gospel.
- Ask God to help your group be people who offer the gift of the gospel freely, understanding what it cost Jesus to make it available.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on Genesis 7 and the Themes of God's Holiness, Judgment, Mercy, and Salvation



Day 1: The God We Cannot Tame

Reading: Exodus 15:1-11 -- A song of praise declaring that God is majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, and mighty in power over his enemies.

Devotional: We are tempted to reduce God to something manageable. We soften his edges, paste him on refrigerator magnets, and teach his stories with felt boards and cartoon animals. But the God of Scripture refuses to be domesticated. He is holy in a way that undoes us. His power is not a concept -- it is a force that splits oceans and breaks open the deep. When we approach him with a shrunken version of who he is, we also shrink our understanding of what it cost him to save us. A God of infinite holiness who chose to redeem you is a far greater act of love than a God who is merely nice. Let the full weight of his holiness land on you today. Worship him for it.

Reflection: In what ways have you reduced God to something more comfortable than what Scripture reveals? What would change in your prayer life if you approached him as he truly is?

Practical Application: Spend five minutes today in silence before you begin your prayer, acknowledging who God is before you bring him your requests.

Day 2: The Door That God Shuts

Reading: 2 Peter 2:4-9 -- Peter explains that God did not spare the ancient world when judgment came, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, as an example of how God rescues the godly while reserving the unrighteous for judgment.

Devotional: When the floodwaters came, God did not leave Noah to latch the ark himself. Scripture tells us that the Lord shut him in. That detail is not small. It is everything. The one who sealed Noah inside was the same one pouring out judgment outside. The same hand that brought the waters brought the safety. This is the nature of divine mercy -- it is not passive. It is active, deliberate, and personal. God does not simply point toward the ark and wish you well. He places you inside it and seals the door. For those who are in Christ, that sealing has already taken place through the Holy Spirit. You are not holding the door closed by your own strength.

Reflection: Do you live as though your security before God depends on your own grip, or do you rest in the reality that God himself has sealed you?

Practical Application: Write down one area of your life where anxiety is rooted in a fear that your standing before God is uncertain. Bring that specific fear to him in prayer, anchoring it to the truth that he is the one who shuts the door.

Day 3: Patience Before the Storm

Reading: 2 Peter 3:3-13 -- Peter warns that scoffers will come denying the promise of Christ's return, and reminds believers that God's patience is not weakness but an expression of his desire that none should perish.

Devotional: God gave humanity 120 years before the flood came. That is not the behavior of a God who is eager to destroy. That is the behavior of a God who is slow to anger and rich in mercy, waiting, pleading, extending the window of repentance as far as it will go. The scoffers in Noah's day saw the ark being built year after year and concluded nothing was coming. They mistook patience for permission. The world today makes the same calculation. But Peter is clear -- the delay is not absence. It is love in the form of time. Every day that judgment has not yet arrived is another day the invitation remains open. Do not waste it.

Reflection: How does understanding God's patience change the way you view the urgency of sharing the gospel with people in your life?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who has not yet responded to the gospel. Commit to praying for them daily this week and look for one genuine opportunity to speak truth into their life.

Day 4: Rising Above the Waters

Reading: Romans 6:3-11 -- Paul describes baptism as a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, where the old self is buried and new life is raised up in him.

Devotional: The flood was not only judgment. It was also a kind of baptism for the earth. The old world, corrupted beyond recovery, went down beneath the waters. And rising above those same waters was the ark, carrying new life into a world that was being made clean. Paul draws on this same picture when he describes what happens to a person who comes to faith in Christ. You go down into the water identifying with the death of Jesus. You come up out of it identifying with his resurrection. The old way of living is buried. New life rises. Noah's ark is a shadow of what Christ has made available to every person who believes. You are not just forgiven. You are raised.

Reflection: Have you fully embraced the reality that coming to Christ is not merely a moral improvement but a death and resurrection? What in your life still reflects the old self that was meant to be buried?

Practical Application: If you have not been baptized as a public declaration of your faith, speak to your pastor about taking that step. If you have been baptized, take time today to remember that moment and renew your commitment to walking in the newness of life it represents.

Day 5: The Gift That Cost Everything

Reading: Isaiah 53:4-11 -- The prophet describes the suffering servant who bore the grief and sorrow of others, was crushed for their wrongdoing, and through his suffering brought peace and healing to those who had gone their own way.

Devotional: The flood showed us that God's wrath is real and that it falls on a world that has turned away from him. But the cross showed us something even greater -- that God was willing to absorb that wrath himself so that you would not have to. Jesus did not merely point to the ark. He became it. He stood in the path of the judgment that was owed to every

one of us and took it fully, willingly, without reservation. The gift of salvation is free to you, but it was not cheap. It cost the Son of God everything. To receive it casually is to misunderstand what it is. To refuse it is to say you would rather stand on your own merit before a God of perfect holiness. Receive it with the weight it deserves. Then give your life to making sure others hear about it.

Reflection: Have you received the gift of salvation as something that cost Jesus everything, or has familiarity caused it to lose its weight in your daily life?

Practical Application: Write a short prayer of gratitude today that specifically names what Jesus endured on your behalf. Be as specific and honest as you can. Let that prayer reset your posture of worship for the rest of the week.