



Message Series Guide



Aftermath

Week 3 – Mercy in the Aftermath

Genesis 9:1-17

When we think of the story of Noah and the great flood, there are so many different aspects to consider. Is the story about God's wrath? Is it about the punishment of sin? Is it about reestablishing humanity? There are many different angles we can consider with this story. However, at the heart of the story of Noah and the great flood is God's mercy. After the floodwaters receded, after the animals left the ark, and after Noah and his family stood on dry land again, God gave humanity a second chance. In the aftermath of the greatest storm in history, there was mercy. In the same way, in the aftermath of our own personal "storms", God can establish a new beginning, give us a new perspective, and offer us His promises. If we pay attention, we will discover in the aftermath of the storms is where we find the rainbows in the sky.

READ:

Genesis 9:1-17; Isaiah 55:7; I Corinthians 15:49

- God tells Noah and his family to "Be fruitful and multiply." To whom else did God give the same instructions? Why do you think God gave Noah the same instructions He gave to Adam and Eve?
- How did God use the great flood to provide a second chance for humanity? How does this story reveal both God wrath and His mercy?
- What new command did God give Noah in Genesis 9:4-7? How did these new commands relate to respecting life? How does the fact that we are created in God's image support the sanctity of life?
- What was the covenant promise God made with Noah (and the whole world)? How did God mark that promise physically? Why is the rainbow an appropriate reminder of God's promise to the world?

DISCUSS:

- How do you define mercy? Describe a time when God gave you a second chance.
- When our current crisis comes to an end, how will that be like a "new beginning" for our community/nation/world? What are the things you've discovered or rediscovered in isolation that you want to be sure to bring with you when things get back to normal? What are the things you want to leave behind?
- How has the COVID-19 crisis changed your perspective about daily life, family, work, government, etc.? When we get back to "normal," will there be anything different about you or your life?
- What did the rainbow in the sky represent? Why did God's promise not mean the absence of personal storms or hardships in our life? What are some of God promises for when we face difficult circumstance?

PRAY:

How many times has God given you a second chance? Thank God today for His mercy in your life.

RESPOND:

Pray that in the aftermath of our own personal storms that we will search for God's rainbow in the sky (His promises). Weeping lasts for the night, but joy comes in the morning.